

BRISTOL RECORD SOCIETY'S  
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VOL. XII

BRISTOL  
CHARTERS

1509—1899



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PUBLICATIONS

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VOL. XII

BRISTOL CHARTERS

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# BRISTOL CHARTERS

1509—1899

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*Printed for the*

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TO  
MY MOTHER AND FATHER  
IN GRATITUDE



## PREFACE

THIS volume is the third and last of a series in which the Society has published the royal charters and letters patent issued to the corporation of Bristol.<sup>1</sup> It covers the whole of the modern period, and ends with the latest of these royal grants—that of the Lord Mayoralty in 1899. In compiling it, I have followed the rules of transcription and editing laid down in *vol. i* by Miss Dermott Harding, with the amendments introduced by Professor Cronne in *vol. ii*. The only departure I have made from their practice is to include charters from sources other than the corporation archives, in the hope that this collection will be complete for the modern period. The charters make dull and disagreeable reading, being written in bad Latin, and according to stereotyped patterns fixed by usage. But they form the basis for any study of the constitutional history of modern Bristol before the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, and have some value, in addition, for students of economic and ecclesiastical history, and of Bristol antiquities. In the Introduction I have singled out the principal themes which they illustrate, and have constructed a commentary on them, mainly from the corporation archives. In the Appendices I have gathered certain cognate material.

In some of this work I have been covering ground which, half a century ago, was mapped and traversed by John Latimer in his series of books on the modern history of Bristol. The weaknesses of Latimer's methods are apparent to the most casual reader: by omitting all references to his sources, he deprived his work of almost all its value for serious study, and by throwing his narrative into the form of annals, he made what might have been a history into an inconsequent *mélange* of news-items. But his faults should not be allowed to obscure the value of his achievement. The *Annals* represent pioneer work, based on a careful reading of a wide range of documents in Bristol (where he

<sup>1</sup> *Bristol Charters*, 1155–1373, ed. N. Dermott Harding, 1930; and *Bristol Charters*, 1378–1499, ed. H. A. Cronne, 1946. I refer to these as *vol. i* and *vol. ii* respectively. In the title of my own volume, and elsewhere in it, I have used the word "charter" for the sake of convenience, although strictly speaking most of these modern instruments were letters patent.



did much of the classification of the records himself), in the British Museum, the Public Record Office and the Bodleian. The skill with which he pieced together fragments of information from scattered sources is evident on every page, when one examines his authorities. Yet he never allowed his judgment to be misled by the thrilling but minor triumphs of research into detail. He remained always a historian, attentive to the meaning and implications of his material.<sup>1</sup>

Seyer's *Memoirs* (1821-3) are much less valuable for the modern period than Latimer's *Annals*, for Seyer wrote before the Bristol corporation archives were opened, and before the national archives were properly organized. His work is therefore based mainly on pamphlets and town-chronicles, of which he made a profound study. A. B. Beaven's *Bristol Lists* (1899) has been my constant companion in my researches. I have tested its accuracy at many points for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and only rarely have I found it at fault. I have not given biographical notes about any of the individuals listed by Beaven, except where his information is substantially wrong. Except in the texts themselves and other documents, I have adopted Beaven's spelling of personal names.

My thanks are due to the Society for giving me the opportunity of undertaking this work, and to Professor Douglas and to the ex-Secretary, Mr. W. L. Cooper, for their interest and help. To the corporation of Bristol, I am indebted for permission to print the charters, and to work in their archives. Miss Ralph, the City Archivist, and her staff have taken extraordinary pains to assist me throughout the undertaking. Professor H. A. Cronne of Birmingham University (and lately my colleague in London) has watched over my shoulder, as it were, at every stage of my work, contributing advice, information, encouragement and reproof. Both he and Miss Ralph have given me help which is beyond the reach of conventional thanks. As well as Professor Cronne, Professor C. H. Williams and Mr. C. H. D. Howard of King's College, London, Mr. H. M. Walton, Archivist of the Oxfordshire County Council, and Mr. W. Leighton, lately Clerk to the Trustees of the Bristol Municipal Charities, read the first draft of my Introduction, and saved me from many mistakes. Mr. I. P. Shaw, Dr. H. H. Scullard, Mr. D. A. Latham and my wife were good enough to help me with the proofs. I acknowledge

<sup>1</sup> His *Calendar*, written at the close of his life, and presumably without adequate revision (it was published posthumously), is a greatly inferior work.

my debt of gratitude to them all. I also offer my thanks to the following for their answers to my requests for information : Mr. A. E. Blackwell, Librarian of the North Devon Athenaeum, Barnstaple ; Professor V. H. Galbraith, Director of the Institute of Historical Research, London ; Mr. R. W. Hunt, Keeper of the Western Manuscripts, Bodleian Library ; Mr. H. C. Johnson, of the Public Record Office ; Dr. C. T. Onions, of Magdalen College, Oxford ; Miss J. C. Lancaster, City Archivist, Coventry ; Rev. Marwood Paterson, of Bristol ; Mr. J. Ross, City Librarian, Bristol ; and Miss Edith Williams, lately Archivist, St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. No one but myself, of course, is responsible for the errors and faults of the volume.

I gladly record my obligations to the officials and staffs of the libraries I have used : the Institute of Historical Research, the British Museum, the Public Record Office, the Bristol Reference Library and the Bristol University Library. And lastly, I express my gratefulness to the Delegacy of King's College, London, and to the Central Research Fund of the University of London for the grants which they generously made towards the cost of my research.

R. C. L.

King's College,  
London,  
*February, 1947.*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used in the footnotes to the Introduction and the texts :—

- A.B. . . . . Audit Books (C.T. 04026).
- Annals*, i . . . . J. Latimer, *Sixteenth-Century Bristol* (1908).
- Annals*, ii . . . . J. Latimer, *Annals of Bristol in the Seventeenth Century* (1900).
- Annals*, iii . . . . J. Latimer, *Annals of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century* (1893).
- Annals*, iv . . . . J. Latimer, *Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century* (1887).
- Annals*, v . . . . J. Latimer, *Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century*, 1887-1900 (1902).
- B.R.L. . . . . Bristol Reference Library.
- Braik. Coll. . . . Braikenridge Collection.
- C.C.P. . . . . Common Council Proceedings (C.T. 04264).
- Cal. Pat. Rolls* . . . . *Calendar of the Patent Rolls*.
- C.S.P.D. . . . . *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series*.
- C.T. . . . . City Treasurer's Department.
- D.N.B. . . . . *Dictionary of National Biography*.
- E.H.R. . . . . *English Historical Review*.
- G.R.B. . . . . Great Red Book of Bristol (C.T. 04719).
- G.W.B. . . . . Great White Book of Bristol (C.T. 04721).
- H.M.C. . . . . *Historical Manuscripts Commission*.
- L. & P. . . . . *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII*.
- L.R.B. . . . . Little Red Book of Bristol (C.T. 04178).
- Latimer, *Calendar* . . . . J. Latimer, *Calendar of the Charters, etc., of the City and County of Bristol* (1909).
- M.C.R. . . . . *First Report of the Municipal Corporations Commissioners, Appendix, Part ii* (1835).
- Manchee . . . . T. J. Manchee (ed.). *Bristol Charities . . .*, 2 vols., 1837. (Reproduces the Bristol section of the *Report of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities in England and Wales*, 1835.)
- O.O.B. . . . . Old Ordinance Book (C.T. 04272).
- P.R.O. . . . . Public Record Office.

- Ricart . . . . Ricart's Maiores Kalendar (C.T. 04720).
- Ricart* (ed. Smith) . . *Ibid.*, L. T. Smith (ed.), Camden Soc., 1872.
- Seyer, *Charters* . . . S. Seyer, *Charters and Letters Patent granted . . . to the town and city of Bristol* (1812).
- Seyer, *Memoirs* . . . S. Seyer, *Memoirs, historical and topographical, of Bristol . . .*, 2 vols. (1821-3).
- Terrill . . . . E. Terrill, *Records of a Church of Christ meeting in Broadmead, Bristol, 1640-87*, ed. E. B. Underhill, Hanserd Knollys Soc., 1847.
- Trans. B. & G.* . . . *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.*
- V.C.H.* . . . . *Victoria County History.*
- Vol. i* . . . . N. Dermott Harding (ed.), *Bristol Charters, 1155-1373* (Bristol Rec. Soc., 1930).
- Vol. ii* . . . . H. A. Cronne (ed.), *Bristol Charters, 1378-1499* (Bristol Rec. Soc., 1946).
- Weinbaum, *B.B.C.* . . M. Weinbaum, *British Borough Charters, 1307-1660* (1943).

# INTRODUCTION

## (I) THE GOVERNING CHARTERS OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

(*Charter of 1499 (see vol. ii, pp. 163-88), and Numbers V and XIV*)

THE charters under which English corporations were governed before the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 were for the most part granted during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Bristol's governing charter for this period was one of the earliest of the series, and dates from 1499. Like all English charters of this sort, it was far from being either a complete written constitution for the town, or the instrument of wholesale change, for these are not the ways in which English town-government, or English national government, has developed. Its effect was rather to define points that were doubtful, to give the stamp of legal registration to existing practices, and to introduce certain reforms. What additions and innovations it made were limited, and were worked tactfully into the existing texture of Bristol's government. The charter of 1499 was a weaving together of the various strands of fifteenth-century development, done so carefully that the original fabric of the *magna carta* of 1373 was still visible. And in its turn, it came itself to be the basic pattern of Bristol's government right up to the early nineteenth century. Though deranged by the disputes of the seventeenth century, and elaborated to answer new needs in the eighteenth century, it was still essentially the same constitution of 1499 which was reformed by the act of 1835. A Bristol Alderman of 1830, reading the charter of 1499, would recognise in it many things familiar in his own experience.

The principal divisions of the town-government in the sixteenth century may be described as a 'legislature' or Council, a 'cabinet' consisting of Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen (which also acted as judiciary), and an 'executive' staffed by two Sheriffs, a Chamberlain, a Town Clerk and their attendant cloud of minor officials. The Council was in theory an abridgement of

the whole body of burgesses, and had grown up in the fourteenth century, or possibly earlier. It consisted under the charter of 1373 of forty-two burgesses (including the Mayor and a single Sheriff), chosen by the Mayor and Sheriff with the assent of the commonalty.<sup>1</sup> The Mayor derived from the early thirteenth century, was annually elected from among the Aldermen (according to regulations made in 1344),<sup>2</sup> and with the ex-Mayors (and possibly the Aldermen) would probably form an inner circle of government. About the predecessors of the Aldermen of 1499, we have no certain knowledge, but it seems likely that they were senior Councillors, and that they performed judicial, or at any rate, police duties.<sup>3</sup> It is true that the charters of 1373, 1446 and 1461, which dealt with the judicial privileges of the town, made no mention of them, but it is dangerous to argue from the silence of charters. The executive officers—Sheriff, Clerk and so on—were all, in some form or other, of old standing in 1499.

The charter of that year established important definitions, and in some cases innovations, in each of these aspects of government. The Council was to comprise forty-three burgesses, instead of forty-two, there being an additional Sheriff. Its numbers were to be chosen in the first place by the Mayor and two of the Aldermen<sup>4</sup> (and thereafter, in practice, by co-option). The Recorder and Aldermen appear for the first time in any Bristol charter. The Recorder, chosen by the Mayor and commonalty (i.e., Council) was to act as one of the Aldermen, who for the rest were to consist of five burgesses nominated by the Mayor and Council. These five were to have power to remove any of their number, and (in the event of any vacancy) to choose a successor. They were to have the same powers as the Aldermen of London, and their judicial

<sup>1</sup> *Vol. i*, p. 136.

<sup>2</sup> *L.R.B.* (ed. Bickley), i. 40.

<sup>3</sup> If they were officers of the corporation, and not merely guild-officials (and that appears likely from *L.R.B.*, ed. Bickley, i. 40), then, from all that we know of Aldermen in other towns, it seems likely that they were an 'upper house' of senior Councillors, and performed judicial functions. But there were also the Aldermen of the Weavers' Guild, who can easily be confused with them—cf. *M.C.R.*, 1154, and S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government*, iii. 451, n. 1. I have found no evidence for Hunt's statement (*Bristol*, 87) that the Aldermen of the corporation were elective officers in the fourteenth century.

<sup>4</sup> *I.e.*, just as by the charter of 1373 the Council was to be nominated by the Mayor and Sheriff. Despite the centuries-old practice of co-option, the Municipal Corporations Commissioners in 1835 held that in strict law the Council met as nominees of the Mayor and Aldermen (*M.C.R.*, 1158).

duties were set out carefully and closely.<sup>1</sup> As for the executive, the offices of Sheriff and Bailiff, previously exercised by one Sheriff and two Bailiffs, were to be united in the hands of two officers, who would act in both capacities.<sup>2</sup> Instead of two Chamberlains, there was to be a single official (again modelled on his London counterpart) chosen by the Mayor and Council, and, acting with him, two Treasurers to have charge of all taxes levied by the Council on the inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> Finally, the office of Water-bailiff, previously at the disposition of the Crown, was declared to lie in the town's gift, after the death of the existing officer, in return for a payment of four marks *p.a.* to the King.<sup>4</sup>

Of these arrangements, those relating to the Bailiffs, Sheriffs, and Water-bailiff, were certainly innovations. As to the rest, knowing so little about the usages of Bristol's government in the fifteenth century, we cannot be sure—and the rest includes much the most important part. But it is clear that one general effect of the charter was to give the certificate of royal approval to an oligarchic system of government for Bristol. The Council was to be chosen by the Mayor and two Aldermen; the Aldermen were themselves to recruit their own numbers. The phrase "by assent of the commonalty," used in reference to the election of the Councillors, was a mere form of words repeated from the charter of 1373. In practice, Bristol was to be governed by a small and self-selective body of the richer burgesses, whose little world of power was carefully sealed off from intrusion. This oligarchy was the product of many generations—there are signs of it in 1373—so that it was already old and well-established by the time of this charter. It was a system which suited an age in which government was a burden to be borne by the few rather than a right to be enjoyed by the many, and to the Crown it had the practical advantage of confining to a small number of people responsibilities

<sup>1</sup> Cf. (ed.) W. de Gray Birch, *The Historical Charters . . . of the City of London* (1887), 74 *et seq.* The modelling of such institutions on those of London is so usual as to call for no comment. Ricart incorporated selections from the *Liber Albus* of London in his *Kalendar*, including sections on the Aldermen and Chamberlain (ed. Smith, pp. 109–11).

<sup>2</sup> In Ricart's *Maiores Kalendar* (C.T. 04720), they were called *Vic' et Ball'* until 1531, when they became known simply by the former title (fo. 141 b).

<sup>3</sup> *Infra*, p. 11. The Treasurers were never appointed, so far as we know.

<sup>4</sup> The Water-bailiff had charge of the shipping in the port. In the fourteenth century there were two, and a deputy; in the fifteenth, only one and a deputy, (*L.R.B.* (ed. Bickley), ii. 65; *G.R.B.* (ed. Veale), ii. 70–1; *G.R.B.* fo. 331 b). In 1488 an enquiry into the rights, fees and perquisites of the office was instituted by the Council (*G.R.B.* fo. 331 b).



which, if dispersed amongst a larger number, might be the less easily enforceable.

One authority on the period, I. S. Leadam, has argued that Henry VII's object in granting the charter was to exclude the Yorkists, who (he implies) had control of Bristol's government.<sup>1</sup> It is quite true that the charter gave to the Mayor and to the two Aldermen whom he appointed full power to effect a drastic purge of the corporation.<sup>2</sup> But did they, in fact, do any such thing? We have no evidence that they did, and a political overthrow so complete would certainly have left some memorial. Moreover, all our evidence suggests that, contrary to Leadam's assumption, the leaders of the Bristol corporation, like sensible men, had accepted the accomplished fact of the new dynasty, and stood in no danger of being dismissed right and left. Henry had already applied a method of discipline much more typical of his administration; twice before 1499 he had allowed Bristol to ransom its reputation by heavy contributions to his exchequer.<sup>3</sup> He found it easy to forgive a town so rich, and one whose offences had been against not himself, but the Lancastrians. Indeed, in 1497 Bristol must have earned his gratitude by its promptness in arming against the Cornish rebels,<sup>4</sup> and the charter may well have been a reward to Bristol's loyalists rather than a punishment of Bristol's Yorkists.

The construction and emphases of the charter itself suggest an explanation different from Leadam's. A reading of the document leaves no doubt that the main object of the charter was to expand and reorganize the town's judicial system. The cognizance of pleas granted in 1373 to the Mayor and Sheriff was now transferred to the Mayor and two Aldermen, so that the Sheriff's jurisdiction was from now onwards exclusively civil. Above all, the Mayor, Recorder and the other Aldermen were to be Justices of the Peace and Justices of Gaol-Delivery, and the definition of their powers occupies much the greater part of the charter. The admission of the whole bench, now and forever, to the commission of the peace, by making the Alderman a Justice *ex officio*, was the most important result of the charter, and may possibly have been its main object. Not even the governmental clauses are so significant,

<sup>1</sup> (Ed.) I. S. Leadam, *Select Cases in the Star Chamber* (Selden Soc., 1910), ii. p. cv.

<sup>2</sup> They controlled all appointments except that of the existing Recorder, whose tenure of office was guaranteed by the charter itself.

<sup>3</sup> *Ricart* (ed. Smith), 48.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 48-9.

despite the emphasis they have usually received, for they did little more than to recognize practices which already existed. To the King and his legal advisers, the judicial clauses would be the most valuable part of the instrument, for they represented the royal policy of strengthening all agencies of justice so as to establish an undisputed peace and order in every part of the kingdom. And to Bristol, the advantages would be something more than the fees which would accrue to their officials and the corporation. For Bristolians, like most Englishmen (or should one say Welshmen?) of that time were a litigious folk. Their principal civil court—the Tolzey—had settled fifteen hundred actions of debt and trespass in the nine years from 1489 to 1497.<sup>1</sup> Their criminal courts were few and probably inadequate, though our knowledge of these things is so slight as to make certainty impossible. But, after 1499, it is likely that the town had a system of courts more equal to its needs.

There are two other charters of the sixteenth century which, though subsidiary in importance to that of 1499, form part of the great central series of Bristol's governing charters beginning in 1373. They are those of 1542 and 1581, and are in the nature of appendices to the charter of 1499. In 1542 the town was raised to the dignity of a city in the same charter which created the bishopric,<sup>2</sup> though use of the old title was by no means extinguished.<sup>3</sup> In 1581 a charter increased the number of Aldermen to twelve (including the Recorder), and required all of them (except the Recorder) in the case of a vacancy caused by dismissal, to be chosen from those who had passed the chair, or from "others of the older and graver Common Councilmen." There is reason to believe that this represented nothing else than the normal practice, but it is the first definition of an Alderman's qualifications which we have. In the case of vacancies created by other causes, the choice was to be made from "the more worthy and circumspect burgesses." The city was, as a result, eventually re-divided into eleven wards, the Recorder remaining unattached to any ward.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Tolzey Court Action Book, 1489-1497, C.T. 08154 (1-2).

<sup>2</sup> It is perhaps remarkable that the town did not for this purpose obtain a separate charter. Latimer (*Calendar*, 141) suggests that it was because Chancery was so busy. Or it may have been due to economy. There is a story that Henry promised Bristol a bishopric and elevation to the status of city in 1534, on his visit to Thornbury (J. F. Nicholls and J. Taylor, *Bristol, Past and Present*, i. 239).

<sup>3</sup> As in "Town-Clerk" and "town-lands."

<sup>4</sup> When the Castle ward was created in the seventeenth century, he was given nominal charge of it, the Mayor acting as his deputy.

The charter of 1581 reinforces one's impression of the value and importance of the judicial reforms introduced in 1499.

The workings of this machine of government in the sixteenth century cannot, for lack of evidence, be reconstructed in full. The historian has only faint and dubious lights to guide him, and very often he can descry only silhouettes and shadows, where he wants to examine details and working parts. But even an approximate account has its justification in the fact that the sixteenth century is the most distant period in time for which we have fairly continuous information about the everyday work of the corporation. This we owe to the survival of the Audit Books in an almost complete series from 1532,<sup>1</sup> and of the Old Ordinance Book,<sup>2</sup> which was the predecessor (in an abbreviated form) of the great series of Common Council Proceedings which begin in 1598. With their help we can answer many of the questions which arise from a study of the charters.

To begin with: who were the Councillors and how were they chosen? There are lists of members given from time to time in the Old Ordinance Book, but never any indication as to how they were elected. Presumably, it was by co-option, but of that our first unambiguous proof dates only from 1619, when an ordinance settled the voting procedure.<sup>3</sup> In order to be legally qualified for membership, the candidate, in the sixteenth century, as in other periods, had to be a burgess. In practice, he had also to be resident, and (although there was never any means test) a man of some financial substance, free to neglect his private affairs for the public business, able to lend money to the corporation, and to set an example in generous gifts to public causes. It was the sixteenth-century belief that a man who had amassed riches was obliged, in return, to perform public service.<sup>4</sup> Hence refusal of office was punished in Bristol, as in other corporations, by a fine. And in 1566 the city took measures to fine those burgesses who escaped office by living in the country, or in the suburbs<sup>5</sup>—an offence easily committed at a time when towns were expanding. Two Councillors

<sup>1</sup> C.T. 04026. There are many gaps in the series before 1555.

<sup>2</sup> C.T. 04272.

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 83 b. Three nominations for each vacancy were to be made—one by the Mayor, a second by the Aldermen, ex-Mayors and Sheriffs, and a third by the rest of the Councillors. A decision was then made by a free vote.

<sup>4</sup> J. H. Thomas, *Town Government in the Sixteenth Century*, 34.

<sup>5</sup> O.O.B., fo. 21 b.

were dismissed in 1598 for this reason.<sup>1</sup> That the rule about wealth was adjustable to circumstances is shown by the case of the Councillor who in 1571 was temporarily relieved of membership until his affairs should improve.<sup>2</sup> In the meantime, the Council was presumably one short of its proper total. The curious case of a Councillor who in 1560 was admitted to all the rights of Councillor, but was not to be summoned to meetings<sup>3</sup> (nor presumably elected to office), may represent another similar arrangement.

Meetings of Council were held, under the terms of an ordinance of 1564, on the first Tuesday of each month,<sup>4</sup> and until 1605 there is no evidence that the ordinary Councillor could cause a special meeting to be summoned.<sup>5</sup> The most important meeting of the year was that of 15 September, when the Council elected the Mayor, the Sheriffs and all the other annually elected officers. Members of the standing committees for the year were chosen at the same time. The ritual of that day, with its processional trumpets, its service, and its courteous cakebreads and wine, is described in a famous page of Ricart's Kalendar.<sup>6</sup> Certain of the rules governing the meetings in the sixteenth century have survived. Absence after summons was punished by a fine of 40*d.*, according to a ruling of 1506;<sup>7</sup> whilst an older regulation imposed a much heavier penalty (£10) on absentees from election-day.<sup>8</sup> From 1598 onwards, and probably much earlier, the Councillor's oath was read at the opening of each assembly. Manners in debate were rough, perhaps, but the Council was not tolerant of any over-great freedom; Mr. Snigge, in 1572, was fined 13*s.* 4*d.* "for calling Mr. John Jones knave in his eare."<sup>9</sup> Moreover, the age had a careful regard for decorum: on Scarlet Days (twelve in the year according to an ordinance of 1563)<sup>10</sup> members wore their best

<sup>1</sup> O.O.B., fo. 66.

<sup>2</sup> A.B., ix. 85.

<sup>3</sup> O.O.B., fo. 18 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 21.

<sup>5</sup> C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 27.

<sup>6</sup> Ricart (ed. Smith), 70-4.

<sup>7</sup> O.O.B., fo. 2. In 1605 this fine was raised to 6*s.* 8*d.* (C.C.P., 1598-1608, p. 103).

<sup>8</sup> L.R.B. (ed. Bickley), ii. 46-7 (regulation of 1366). In 1606 this fine was £5 (C.C.P., 1598-1608, p. 123), but proxies were allowed from at least 1614 (C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 49 b).

<sup>9</sup> A.B., ix. 155.

<sup>10</sup> O.O.B., fo. 20 b.

gowns, each according to his station, and, for ordinary meetings, gowns " of the graveste sorte " and caps.<sup>1</sup>

A great deal of the work of the Council was done in committee. In the early seventeenth century, for which period the minutes give us full and indubitable evidence, there were seven standing committees. Of these the three most important had already existed for a long time : the Auditors of the Accounts (six in number, responsible for the verification of the Chamberlain's figures, and dating possibly from 1499) ; <sup>2</sup> the Surveyors of Lands (six in number, having charge with the Chamberlain of all city property, and whose origin is unknown) ; and thirdly, the Clavigers, or Keepers of the Keys (five Councillors who administered the charitable funds, and who first appear in the records in 1559).<sup>3</sup> There were also *ad hoc* committees, to some of which the Council would, on occasion, depute a limited authority by giving instructions, and making out a power of attorney under the city seal. The deputation would then travel to London or elsewhere, and act in the name of the corporation.

Most powerful of all the committees—though it was not so much a committee of Council as an ' upper house '—was that formed by the Mayor and Aldermen, the ' cabinet ' of the city government. The Mayor was elected from among the senior Councillors every 15 September, three candidates being nominated by the retiring Mayor, the Sheriffs and the rest respectively.<sup>4</sup> In days when Bristol was small, its governing class restricted and its government comparatively simple, the power of the Mayor was enormous. The Council's supervision, being sporadic, did not amount to any real check on the day-to-day administration of affairs by the Mayor and Aldermen. Most of what we should call ' administrative ' business (the enforcement of statutes and so on) was in any case done under judicial forms, and the bench was the undisputed judiciary of the corporation. In this way, for instance, the religious policy of the corporation in the later seventeenth century changed almost annually with the change of Mayors.

<sup>1</sup> O.O.B., fos. 61 b, 67.

<sup>2</sup> The first extant volume of their Bargain Books covers 1604–20, and is labelled No. 41 (C.T. 04335). According to the charter, the Chamberlain was to render account either to the Mayor and Aldermen, or to two burgesses appointed by the Mayor.

<sup>3</sup> O.O.B., fo. 19 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 26. In 1570 nominations were made by a slightly different procedure (*loc. cit.*).



In the sixteenth century, there was no difficulty, until Elizabeth's reign, in persuading Mayors to serve a second or even a third term in office, though not in successive years.<sup>1</sup> But, from causes we cannot exactly define, this willingness decreased notably in the later part of the century, and in 1586—a year of dearth and famine, when the responsibilities of government were heavy—three Councillors in turn evaded the honour by payment of a fine, and only with difficulty was the chair filled at all.<sup>2</sup>

The Aldermen were the elder statesmen of the corporation, recruiting their numbers (before the charter of 1581 required it) from the ex-Mayors or from others of the older and graver Councillors.<sup>3</sup> There is no case known to me in which they exercised the right given to them by the charters of choosing a burgess who was not a Councillor,<sup>4</sup> although their deputies (who helped them in their detailed administration of the wards) were not always members of Council.<sup>5</sup> Each had his ward, in which he controlled the watch (or police), kept an eye on the condition of the streets, the number of alehouses, the doings of 'strangers' and the like.<sup>6</sup> But his most important work was done on the bench as a Justice, or in conclave with the Mayor and his fellows. The reliance which the Crown placed on this small group of half-a-dozen men—the Mayor and the Aldermen—is obvious in almost every line of the charter of 1499. When in 1518 William Dale and his party brought their momentous action in Star Chamber on behalf of the Sheriffs, the authority against which they levelled their charges was the court

<sup>1</sup> Between 1485 and 1572, there were fifteen cases of a Mayor serving twice, and one in which he served thrice. More than two terms of office were forbidden in 1555, and in 1563 the Council decreed that no-one was to serve twice against his will (O.O.B., fos. 14 b, 21). From 1613, Mayors serving a second term were paid at double the normal rate (C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 35 b). In the sixteenth century the Mayor's fee was £40 *p.a.*, paid until 1520 by the Sheriffs, and afterwards by the Chamberlain (O.O.B., fo. 7), but not always regularly. But from 1493 the Mayor had an annual loan of £20 from the Spencer charity (G.R. B., fo. 316 b). John Northall, Mayor 1554-5, did not receive his salary until 1558 (A.B., v. 209), yet he served again in 1566-7.

<sup>2</sup> A.B., xi. 299; *Annals*, i. 87. There was another refusal in 1592.

<sup>3</sup> *E.g.*, in 1573 two Aldermen were dismissed, and replaced by John Stone (Mayor 1569-70 and 1572-3) and Thomas Chester (Mayor, 1570-1). See Adams, *Chronicle*, 114.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. ii, p. 170, and *infra*, p. 128. In the early seventeenth century, for which full statistics are available in A. B. Beaven's *Bristol Lists*, Aldermen were usually elected from Councillors of twelve years' experience or more.

<sup>5</sup> After 1612 the deputy was required to be chosen from the Councillors (C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 28 b).

<sup>6</sup> By a rule of 1614, the Aldermen had, in the event of a vacancy, the right of changing wards, first choice belonging to the senior members (C.C.P., 1627-42, sub 23 August 1636).

of Mayor and Aldermen.<sup>1</sup> They were then, and probably had been for long before, the innermost camarilla of government. There were few limits, in theory, to what they could do without consulting the Council. And we know that, in practice, vital matters like the payment of monies and the drafting and writing of letters, were settled by the Mayor alone or in conjunction with some or all of the Aldermen. Their powers developed as the multiple problems created in the sixteenth century by a growing population, social distress and religious changes, made necessary a strengthening of the policy-making group. An ordinance was passed in 1560 which marks a decision at least as important as that contained in any charter.<sup>2</sup> By that law, the Aldermen were to meet the Mayor once a week to "entreate and devise for the good order, rule and government of the . . . Citie." This at a time, it will be remembered, when the Council met only monthly. It was no doubt the operation of the same process (and maybe the working of this very ordinance) which brought about the doubling of the numbers of the Aldermen in the charter of 1581.<sup>3</sup>

This development did not go unchallenged by the Councillors. They passed a series of ordinances in 1605 which reveal the encroachments which had been made by the bench. Appointments to all offices in the gift of the corporation (except those of Alderman and attorney of the courts) were to be made in full Council.<sup>4</sup> Individual Councillors were given the right of proposing reforms in writing to the Mayor, who was obliged to consult the bench, and, if they agreed, to summon a special meeting of Council within eight days.<sup>5</sup> These ordinances had been provoked by the disputes which had followed the suspiciously hurried election of a new Recorder,<sup>6</sup> but it may be doubted if they produced much lasting effect. The sort of problems which arose when a close corporation of the seventeenth century made its appointments,

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *infra*, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> O.O.B., fo. 18. It is noticeable, in the Audit Books, that before this date payments of money were authorized more usually by the Mayor alone than by the Mayor and Aldermen.

<sup>3</sup> The charter itself states that the increase was made necessary by the growth of population (*infra*, p. 126). In that case, one would expect the city to have been divided into eleven wards without delay. But four years after the grant of the charter there were still only five wards (O.O.B., fo. 56).

<sup>4</sup> C.T. 04273 (1), fos. 25-25 b.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 27.

<sup>6</sup> *Annals*, ii. 23.

was not usually amenable to control by an ordinance.<sup>1</sup> And I have found no evidence of the summons of any special meeting of Council at the instance of a single Councillor.

The executive officers of the corporation were headed by the Chamberlain and the Town Clerk, of whom the former was perhaps the more important in the sixteenth century. He may be called the manager of the corporation, its Chancellor of the Exchequer and Minister of Works, while the Town Clerk was, under the Recorder, its principal judicial officer. The office of Chamberlain, as originally founded, was a small one. In 1455, when it first appears in the records, it was occupied by two Councillors, appointed by their fellows to hold office for two years, one retiring every second year.<sup>2</sup> It soon became fused with the office of the Bailiffs, with disastrous effects on the work.<sup>3</sup> Eventually, by 1494 at latest, the practice was adopted of making a long-term appointment of some burgess who would devote the whole of his time to the work.<sup>4</sup> In 1499 the charter set up the office along these lines, adducing as model the Chamberlain of London.<sup>5</sup> The charter's additional provision for the establishment of two Treasurers acting under the Council (to give to the Council control of the taxes it voted), and who may have corresponded to the Chamberlains of Henry VI's time, was not, as we have seen, carried out.

The Chamberlain was usually a merchant of some standing, able out of his own purse to provide surety for his honest management of the city funds.<sup>6</sup> His work lay mainly in the collection and expenditure of the city's income. He was responsible for all funds and estates, and, with the development of the landed wealth of the corporation at the Dissolution and after, the dimensions of his importance grew in proportion. His annual accounts from 1532

<sup>1</sup> Appointments of minor officials serving under the Sheriff and Chamberlain (but excluding the Deputy-Chamberlain) were thereafter subject to confirmation by Council (C.C.P., 1608-27, fos. 109, 114).

<sup>2</sup> G.R.B. (ed. Veale), ii. 49. The office is probably much older; see *ibid.*, p. 57.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 57.

<sup>4</sup> In 1494 a Councillor (Henry Dale, merchant) was appointed at a salary of £9 *p.a.*, and was to employ a collector (G.R.B., fo. 214 b). This was the same salary as that of the sixteenth-century Chamberlain, and suggests that the office was now held by a single person. See also Leadam, *op. cit.*, ii. 149. There is a statement in Newcomb's *Annals* (p. 54) that the single Chamberlain dates from 1470, but I do not know its authority.

<sup>5</sup> *Vol. ii.* p. 176.

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fo. 52.

have survived,<sup>1</sup> though they probably date back some years earlier. In 1572 he was directed to enter them in his own hand, and to keep them in a chest of which the Mayor, an Alderman and a Councillor were to have charge.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, he had control of all public works. He was responsible for the corporation workmen (plumbers, carpenters, masons, etc.), and the corporation store; he saw to the cleaning of the streets (Roger the Raker is a familiar and rather pathetically futile figure in the accounts); he supervised the building of houses and the repair of the quay. Much of the work, in fact, on which the reputation of a corporation is made or lost, depended on the efficiency of the Chamberlain. Moreover, he was in charge of the admission of burgesses, the control of 'strangers' and their goods, the administration of the laws of apprenticeship, the sealing of weights and measures, and the custody of municipal records.

It is beyond the scope of this introduction to discuss whether the Chamberlains of the sixteenth century did in fact fulfil these Napoleonic opportunities. Certainly none were dismissed for corruption, and one of them, John Willy (1542 ?—50) was by reputation one of the greatest of Bristol's public servants.<sup>3</sup> In the early seventeenth century the regulations governing the office were tightened. In 1605 provision was made for the annual adjustment of the amount of his surety to the amount of his credit, and the Surveyors of the city lands, in charge of this, were made independent both of Town Clerk and Chamberlain.<sup>4</sup> In 1612 the appointment was made renewable annually, and in the following year (when a new officer was appointed) the Chamberlain was excluded from membership of the Council, though ordered to attend each meeting.<sup>5</sup> It seems that the Chamberlain had been a little too Napoleonic.

But because of his wide and practical knowledge of the city's business, the Chamberlain came to be the principal ambassador of the corporation in its dealings with the government. In cases where in the seventeenth century the Town Clerk would be sent to

<sup>1</sup> *Supra*, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> O.O.B., fos. 30-30 b. He was also to keep annual summaries of his accounts, but these have disappeared.

<sup>3</sup> Adams, *Chronicle*, 110.

<sup>4</sup> C.T. 04273 (1), fos. 27 b, 28 b. The auditors at this time consisted of three Aldermen and three ex-Sheriffs.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, fos. 44, 48. Three sixteenth-century Chamberlains were certainly Councillors—Gilbert Cogan, John Willy and Robert Halton—and possibly others were too.

London—to procure a favour or to speed the halting justice of the courts—the Council in the sixteenth century sent the Chamberlain. This practice reveals the extent to which his multifarious duties must have been delegated.<sup>1</sup> In 1571, for instance, he rode with his man to London on four separate occasions—to renew the commissions of Admiralty and of oyer and terminer, as well as about other matters nearer to his own province, like the customs-farm.<sup>2</sup> In 1584 the business of Hart's lands and a suit with Gloucester kept him away for forty-three days on end, at Greenwich, at Westminster and in the anterooms of the Earl of Leicester.<sup>3</sup> His salary (£9 *p.a.* in the early part of the period, but raised to £20 *p.a.* by 1548) was well enough earned.<sup>4</sup>

The Town Clerk may be more briefly described, for he has not left so great a legacy of records as the sixteenth-century Chamberlain. He was by origin, as far as we know, a fifteenth-century official, but does not appear in any charter until 1664.<sup>5</sup> He was the Council's legal adviser (except for those matters referred to the Recorder) and was *ex officio* Steward of the corporation's manorial courts, clerk of the peace, and assessor to the Mayor's Court, the Staple Court and the old and declining Court Leet. He might (though this was unusual) be also Steward of the Tolzey Court.<sup>6</sup> He was in addition the clerk of the Council's meetings (about which we know almost nothing for this period) and under him worked a personal assistant who was not in his own right an official.<sup>7</sup> His salary was £4 *p.a.*, raised in 1586 to £10 *p.a.*, and in 1613 to £20 *p.a.*,<sup>8</sup> but the greater part of his income came from fees. In the sixteenth century, before 1557, he was not always resident,<sup>9</sup> and his importance belongs to the following century, when the political and religious disputes of the age constantly involved so many points of law.

<sup>1</sup> There were collectors of rents (G.R.B., fo. 214 b), and, in 1623, a Deputy-Chamberlain (C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 114).

<sup>2</sup> A.B., ix. 98, 102, 110.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, xi. 246.

<sup>4</sup> A.B., iv. 49.

<sup>5</sup> *Infra*, p. 178.

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fo. 13 b.

<sup>7</sup> Leadam, *op. cit.*, ii. 152; C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 88.

<sup>8</sup> L.R.B. (ed. Bickley), i. 11; O.O.B., fo. 58 b; A.B., xvi. 159.

<sup>9</sup> O.O.B., fo. 14 b.

The history of the office of Sheriff<sup>1</sup> in the sixteenth century deserves more attention in view of the number of changes affecting it in the period. To begin with, in 1499 the office, hitherto held by one Councillor, was combined with that of the Bailiffs and filled by two Councillors. The broad effect of the change (and of other attendant changes) was that the Sheriffs no longer had any criminal jurisdiction (now transferred to the Mayor and two Aldermen), but acquired the Bailiff's jurisdiction in civil cases. As Bailiffs, they had charge of the hundred, and the hundred-court (or Tolzey),<sup>2</sup> which was, with the Mayor's Court, one of the principal civil courts of the town, and which met three times a week. As Sheriffs, their work consisted in the collection of the town-customs at the port, and the payment therefrom of the town-farm and other royal dues; the collection of the duties on goods coming into the town by land (which went to the Chamber); the control of prisons and of prisoners; the return of parliamentary writs and the payment of the members of Parliament; the return of all other writs and the supervision of Assizes. In addition there were ceremonial duties heavier than those of any other officer of the corporation, except perhaps the Mayor.<sup>3</sup>

The office was in practice reserved for recently-elected Councillors,<sup>4</sup> who must have found their novitiate a searching test of nerve and purse. Their income, unlike that of the Mayor, had not been fixed, and consisted almost entirely of variable fees, from the courts, prisons, and customs-dues of the town,<sup>5</sup> out of which they were obliged to pay, not only the town-farm, but also the Mayor's salary and a variety of other corporate expenses. Moreover, the combination of the offices of Sheriff and Bailiff led to a complication and increase of their burden. Two men were bearing what had previously been borne by three, and at a time when expenses were increasing more rapidly than income. In 1512 two Councillors refused the office, and were fined and dismissed the Council.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to *M.C.R.* (p. 1165), there were two offices of Sheriff held by two persons, and not, as in Middlesex, a single office exercised by two officers. The oath *tempore* Elizabeth refers, however, to "the offyce of the Sheryves" (*Ricart*, ed. Smith, 88).

<sup>2</sup> Later known as the Sheriffs' Court.

<sup>3</sup> Besides serjeants and yeomen, there was an Under-sheriff to assist him; cf. 6 Henry VIII, c. 18.

<sup>4</sup> In 1613 the election of a burgess as Councillor and Sheriff in the same year was forbidden (C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 46 b).

<sup>5</sup> The customs-dues were not completely commuted until 1744 (*Annals*, iii. 251).

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fo. 4.

Another refused office in 1517;<sup>1</sup> and two years later—in April 1519—one of the Sheriffs, William Dale, with the backing of a party among the younger Councillors, went further and, after begging in vain to be excused, appealed to the Chancellor against the terms of the appointment.<sup>2</sup> His petition represented to Wolsey the difficulties caused to young merchants by the heavy charges of the office, and the impossibility of getting the older members of the Council, who had been through the mill themselves, to admit that it was anything but good for their juniors. Industry was being ruined, he maintained, and the King's customs diminished. He suggested that the Sheriffs should be relieved of responsibility for all payments except that of the fee-farm, which at that time was £160 *p.a.* and could be met out of the income from customs and fairs. The Mayor entered a demurrer claiming for the corporation, under its charters, the right to adjudge such disputes. The award, issued in Star Chamber, was designed to assuage the pride of the Mayor and Aldermen, and directed Dale to abide by the decision of the Council. The resulting ordinance of October 1519<sup>3</sup> conceded Dale's main point (which clearly argues some pressure from above on the Mayor and his party) and left the Sheriffs responsible only for the fee-farm. The Chamberlain (from other corporate resources) was now to pay the salaries and allowances of Mayor, Recorder, Town-Clerk, Town-Attorney, and Swordbearer. Economies were made in certain ceremonial expenses—"drinkings" and liveries—for which the Sheriffs had in the past to foot the bill. In return, the Sheriffs had to forego the £60 *p.a.* paid to them of recent years in compensation for properties formerly held by the Bailiffs, and all told it was estimated that they would be out of pocket to the tune of £38 3s. 6d. annually. Divided between two, this seems reasonable enough for an office in which an expectation of even higher loss had in the past been taken for granted. In the course of the pleadings, Dale had produced figures which gave his losses and those of his colleague as £145 12s. 9d. *p.a.*<sup>4</sup>; the Mayor had put it at £50 *p.a.*, "which" as he said, "is not for any honest person called to any worshipful room in any town to complain of."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> O.O.B., fo. 6 b.

<sup>2</sup> The documents of the case in Star Chamber which followed, are given in I. S. Leadam, *Select Cases in the Star Chamber*, ii. 142-65.

<sup>3</sup> G.W.B., fos. 55-8. Leadam incorrectly assumes that this ordinance was issued by Star Chamber.

<sup>4</sup> H. Bush, *Bristol Town-Duties* (1828), p. 47. This, as the Sheriffs said, was apart from the expenses of their households and wives.

<sup>5</sup> *L. & P.*, iii (pt. 1), pp. 161-2.

In 1546 the land-dues were abolished by the Council, and the Sheriffs' loss of revenue offset by the grant of £44 *p.a.* from the Chamber.<sup>1</sup> The office still remained burdensome, and later in the century the migration of burgesses to the suburbs narrowed the field of choice. In 1566 two Councillors purchased a year's exemption from the honour by fines,<sup>2</sup> and the Council, having difficulty in filling their places, passed in the same year an ordinance under which burgesses who went to live outside the city, or refused to take office as Sheriff or Mayor, were to be fined £200 and disfranchised.<sup>3</sup> This bye-law did not rule out the possibility of a Councillor's being excused the office for a limited period.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, there remains the Recorder, who lived in the great world of London, and whose "labor," in the words of the Mayor of 1533, was "not much."<sup>5</sup> His duties consisted chiefly in holding, with the Mayor and Aldermen, the annual gaol-delivery, in which were tried as many as possible of the prisoners, the rest being bound over to quarter-sessions. An ordinance of 1570 required him to visit Bristol on at least four additional occasions each year.<sup>6</sup> From time to time he had also to swear in newly-elected Aldermen and Chamberlains.<sup>7</sup> A great part of his usefulness lay in the fact that he was an important London lawyer, able to give counsel on legal matters, able above all to conduct the high politics of the town in, for example, the negotiation of a charter.<sup>8</sup> A bye-law of 1554 required him to be a Bencher of his Inn, but the Council did not always insist on this, presumably because it had to rely on outside advice in its choice of candidates.<sup>9</sup> But the Recorders of the sixteenth century make a distinguished list, and include six who became judges.<sup>10</sup> The most famous name among them is that of Thomas Cromwell, elected in 1533.<sup>11</sup> His duties were performed by a deputy, David Broke, who succeeded him

<sup>1</sup> *Annals*, i. 13-15.

<sup>2</sup> A.B., viii. 90.

<sup>3</sup> O.O.B., fo. 21 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, fos. 25, 65.

<sup>5</sup> *L. & P.*, vi. 415.

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fo. 26.

<sup>7</sup> *Vol. ii*, pp. 169, 175.

<sup>8</sup> *Cf. infra*, p. 76.

<sup>9</sup> O.O.B., fos. 14, 40; C.C.P., 1598-1608, p. 100. In 1630 the retiring Recorder recommended his successor (C.C.P., 1627-42, *sub* 1 June, 1630).

<sup>10</sup> There is an account of the Recorders in B.R.L., Braik. Coll. MSS., v. 111.

<sup>11</sup> *L. & P.*, vi. 415.



in the office in 1541.<sup>1</sup> A later generation would have made Cromwell Lord High Steward, but the office did not exist until the town became a city.

Thus the affairs of a large and growing community of six thousand people<sup>2</sup> were in the hands of about forty-five individuals who elected themselves and were, politically speaking, answerable only to themselves. How well they governed their city cannot be fully discussed in this introduction. There are occasional signs of corruption in appointments,<sup>3</sup> and of sharp practice in the administration of charities,<sup>4</sup> but we must not read too much meaning into what appear to be isolated cases. The oligarchs were enterprising and active in relieving the poor,<sup>5</sup> and the fact that they examined their ordinances with a view to revision no less than five times between 1585 and 1630 is proof that they were not unduly conservative.<sup>6</sup> Their governmental machine was simple in design and quick in action, a large discretionary power being left to the Mayor and his brethren. A governing class composed of the most substantial merchants of the city cannot have been without ability and resource, and, serving for life, they must often have acquired the expertise of professional bureaucrats. They were the natural leaders of the community, able to command obedience, and usually fit to deserve it.

There is one test which it is relevant here to apply to their government. Did their work answer the objects of the judicial reorganization which was the principal aim of the two governing charters of the century? A definitive answer is impossible, in view of the paucity of records of the local courts before the seventeenth century. The absorption of the extra-municipal franchises of St. Augustine's and Temple Fee at the time of the Reformation,<sup>7</sup> and the continuous work of the courts must (even in the absence of an adequate police) have had their effects, although it took much longer than one generation, and a change of manners as well as of laws, to cure the fifteenth-century Englishman of his

<sup>1</sup> *L. & P.*, xii (pt. 2), p. 211. Cromwell had business connections with Bristol over ten years before (*Leadam*, op. cit., ii. 262 n. 34).

<sup>2</sup> *Annals*, i. 24-5.

<sup>3</sup> An ordinance of 1605 forbade Councillors to receive bribes from candidates (C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 25 b).

<sup>4</sup> *Annals*, ii. 9-10.

<sup>5</sup> The Audit Books have some information on this subject.

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fos. 53, 65 b; C.C.P., 1598-1608, p. 94; C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 49; C.C.P., 1627-42, sub 6 October, 1630.

<sup>7</sup> *Infra*, pp. 21, 28.

readiness for violence. The period opens, as it were, with a pitched battle, with swords and daggers, between the men of the town and the men of St. Augustine's, in 1495.<sup>1</sup> But, apart from a small affray in 1527, caused by Black Will Herbert, a notorious Welsh Borderman,<sup>2</sup> there are no more recorded riots in Bristol throughout the rest of the century, even at times of political rebellion and economic distress. The period ends with a series of lean years, during many of which Bristol's narrow streets were crowded with idling soldiers, awaiting transport to Ireland. The absence of any major incidents is an indication of how much progress had been made since 1495.

A final issue remains: the question of how far these chartered rights were defended, or in need of defence. There is no evidence of any 'democratic' movement among the rank and file of the burgesses in the sixteenth century; government was an arduous and unprofitable business, best left to a few. But there is a great deal of evidence that the Crown—especially when its prerogative courts grew in scope and power—made several invasions, or attempted invasions, of the chartered liberties of the town. The worst that the town suffered under Henry VII was heavy taxation,<sup>3</sup> and an attempt to introduce the justices in eyre.<sup>4</sup> In the following reign it was more difficult to escape unwelcome attentions. In 1533 the corporation appointed Thomas Cromwell their Recorder, but found it necessary to remind him not to grant away the office, and not to expect the patronage of the Town Clerkship.<sup>5</sup> In the same reign, the corporation founded the office of Lord High Steward, in order to have a friend at court,<sup>6</sup> and presented it to the Earl of Hertford, who later became Lord Protector Somerset.<sup>7</sup> The habit of giving to great men the posts of honour in the corporation had its uses, of course, but also its dangers. The great one might ask for too much—like

<sup>1</sup> *Infra*, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> There are varying accounts of this affair in the MS. chronicles in B.R.L. See also Aubrey, *Brief Lives* (ed. A. Clark, 1898), i. 314; Hunt, *Bristol*, 100-02; and *D.N.B.*, sub Sir William Herbert. Herbert later became Constable of Bristol castle; *infra*, pp. 229-30.

<sup>3</sup> *Supra*, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> O.O.B., fo. 3 b.

<sup>5</sup> *L. & P.*, vii. 135; *ibid.*, ix. 48.

<sup>6</sup> An ordinance of 1570 required that the Lord High Steward should be a Privy Councillor in regular attendance at court (O.O.B., fo. 26). He received a small annual fee, and frequent gifts of wine.

<sup>7</sup> With his father, he had been Constable of the castle (*L. & P.*, ii (pt. 2), p. 1105).

Cromwell, or like Leicester fifty years later, who as Lord High Steward proposed that he should be given a proportion of the town's customs-dues.<sup>1</sup> And the courtier's power was a standing invitation to intrigue on the part of councillors. In 1553 a municipal ordinance forbade Councillors to sue the Crown or Privy Council for any office in the gift of the city, on pain of dismissal and disfranchisement.<sup>2</sup>

But in the reign of Elizabeth, the city stood in need of all the protection it could muster, for the activities of the High Court of Admiralty and of the Council of the Marches of Wales forced Bristol to keep sleepless watch over its privileges. In affairs of Admiralty, the municipality had to fight hard to retain its rights, as wars and pirates and bullion-fleets tempted the central government into repeated action.<sup>3</sup> The Council of the Marches came to regard Bristol as part of its province, with Gloucestershire, and demanded suit of court (especially in cases of perjury) and military tribute.<sup>4</sup> The quarrels were many and manifold, and the issues not settled by the time the century ended.<sup>5</sup> On at least two occasions—in 1558 and 1575—the corporation considered applying for an additional charter to ward off the attacks.<sup>6</sup>

## (II) THE CORPORATION AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

(*Numbers IV, VI, IX, XII and XV*)

IN the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Bristol enjoyed the reputation of being the richest corporation in the kingdom, London alone excepted. Her citizens were among the greatest merchants of the time, and their pride of purse and elaborate dignity a byword among outsiders.<sup>7</sup> The greater part of this

<sup>1</sup> *Annals*, i. 52.

<sup>2</sup> O.O.B., fo. 13.

<sup>3</sup> *Infra*, pp. 70-1.

<sup>4</sup> *H.M.C.*, de l'Isle and Dudley, i. 326.

<sup>5</sup> See *Annals*, i. 33-5 for a summary of these incidents. In 1562 Bristol is said to have gained exemption from the Council's jurisdiction, except for personal suits, and matters touching the peace and the Crown (C. A. J. Skeel, *The Council in the Marches of Wales*, 131). The subject would repay further study.

<sup>6</sup> O.O.B., fos. 16, 36; *Annals*, i. 35.

<sup>7</sup> R. North, *Lives of the Norths* (ed. A. Jessop), i. 156-7, 285; *Annals*, iii. 8-10.

wealth, public and private, came from the seaborne and ocean-borne trade of the port, which underwent enormous expansion during the Tudor and Stuart periods. Even in the earlier part of the sixteenth century the corporation derived almost one half of its revenue from the customs-dues which it shared with the King.<sup>1</sup> The other sources of its income were duties on goods brought into the city by land, judicial fines, fair- and market-fees, burgesses' fees and so on, and finally, rents from the corporate estates.

It is the history of these landed estates which is illustrated by the charters here under review. The town-lands first grew to substantial importance in the sixteenth century, and their growth was of considerable consequence in the development of the corporate resources. In 1540 they consisted of tenements and plots of ground in various parts of Bristol, worth some £147 *p.a.* gross.<sup>2</sup> In 1541, '44 and '48 the corporation, by these charters, purchased lands in Bristol and in the surrounding countryside worth £172 *p.a.*, according to the estimates made at the time.<sup>3</sup> They proved to be amongst the most lucrative investments ever made by the city, and by 1604 had more than trebled in value.<sup>4</sup>

The new estates represented for the most part the corporation's share in the plunder of the local monasteries. In 1541 they bought most of the country estates of Gaunt's Hospital, the buildings and possessions of the Carmelite and Franciscan friars of Bristol, and a manor lately belonging to the monastery of Athelney. In 1544, they purchased the Bristol and Somerset lands of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, once the property of the Templars, and also the Bristol estate of Lord Lisle. Finally in 1548 came the much more modest prize of the Chapel on the Bridge, shorn of all its endowments.

This, of course, comprised only a minor part of the great wealth of church property confiscated in Bristol and its neighbourhood at this time. A municipal corporation, bidding at auction against ministers, court favourites and London merchants, could not hope for the big lots or the best terms. It was to people like Sir Ralph Sadler, Secretary of State, and Henry Brayne,

<sup>1</sup> In 1519, the revenue from customs-dues was *c.* £140; in 1532-3, the revenue from other sources amounted to *c.* £180 (*G.R.B.*, ed. Veale, ii. 153-5; *A.B.*, i. 235).

<sup>2</sup> *A.B.*, ii. 181.

<sup>3</sup> This is calculated from the figures given in the charters, and does not take account of the expenses of administering the estates.

<sup>4</sup> *A.B.*, xiv. 233-4. They produced *c.* £524 gross in 1604.

merchant-tailor of London, and Sir Miles Partridge, courtier and gambler, that the bulk of the property was transferred.<sup>1</sup> As for private Bristolians, only one made a purchase of monastic land in Bristol on his own account: William Chester, Mayor 1538-9, who in 1540 bought the Dominican friary for £37 10s.<sup>2</sup>

The greatest prize of all—the abbey of St. Augustine's, with endowments worth almost £700 *p.a.*—escaped the worst attentions of the plunderers, and retained its endowments almost intact when, by a charter of 1542, it became the seat of a new bishopric.<sup>3</sup> The town became a city by the same instrument, but the change meant for the corporation something more than a change of title. It settled in the town's favour one of the most stubborn difficulties it had ever had to face: the claim of the abbey to treat the whole of its buildings and precincts, including St. Augustine's Green (now College Green), as a "liberty," exempt from the jurisdiction of the town. The inhabitants of the liberty claimed freedom from suit of court, from tolls and taxes, and within its limits fugitive criminals could find sanctuary.<sup>4</sup> The situation is one which has many parallels elsewhere, and was, in fact, inevitable wherever a large monastic house lay too close to a growing town. In this case, the pretensions of the abbey, together with other aggravations, led to a long and bitter rivalry which in 1495 culminated in a running battle, with swords and daggers, between the town's officers and the men of the abbey, the mayor crying "Keep the Peace!" "till he was hoarse." The Star Chamber thereupon settled one of the issues (that of suit of court) in the town's favour,<sup>5</sup> but disputes over other matters

<sup>1</sup> Sadler bought Westbury College, an estate of the Bishop of Worcester, and the manor of Clifton (*L. & P.*, xix (pt. 1), p. 175; *Annals*, ii. 374, 489); Brayne purchased St. James' Priory and the property in Bristol of neighbouring monasteries (*L. & P.*, xix (pt. 1), p. 37; *ibid.*, xx (pt. 2), p. 225); Partridge gained Bristol's chantrylands (*infra*, p. 29). Other similar purchasers included Dr. George Owen, the King's physician, who obtained St. John's Hospital (*L. & P.*, xix (pt. 1), pp. 286-7), and William Popley, Cromwell's agent, who bought the Austin friary from its original purchaser (*ibid.*, p. 638).

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, xv. 146, 409; *The Reliquary*, ii (new ser.), 1888, p. 82. A few Bristolians obtained other monastic property: John Smyth bought a manor which had belonged to Bath Priory, and the chantry lands of Newnham, Gloucs. (*L. & P.*, xxi (pt. 1), p. 577; *Trans. B. and G.*, xviii. 158-60), and John Drewe the whole of Barrow Gurney Priory (*L. & P.*, xiii (pt. 1), p. 581).

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale, *Monasticon* (1830), vi (pt. 1), p. 364; *L. & P.*, xvii. 257, 637-9.

<sup>4</sup> For this matter, see G.W.B., fos. 1-36.

<sup>5</sup> The town was to hold its law-day in the liberty, but was to share the profits with the abbey.

(particularly taxation) broke out between 1515 and 1533.<sup>1</sup> The surrender of the abbey to the Crown in December, 1539, had the effect of abolishing the liberty, and securing the full rights of the town in the disputed area.

No sooner had the surrender been signed than the corporation made suit to the Crown for the purchase of Gaunt's Hospital, which lay on the north side of St. Augustine's Green, within the liberty, and which had surrendered at the same time as the abbey.<sup>2</sup> The hospital had been associated with the abbey at the beginning of its history, but was now a separate institution, having independent endowments.<sup>3</sup> It consisted of a chapel (completed in 1487), and a master's house with other buildings, surrounded by gardens and orchards. A master and four chaplains (with sixteen servants) were resident at the time of the Dissolution, administering revenues worth £112 *p.a.*, out of which they had to feed one hundred poor persons every day of the week.<sup>4</sup> Its history in the fifteenth century is obscure, and we cannot tell how far it had been fulfilling the terms of its foundation.<sup>5</sup>

In 1538—a year before the negotiations for Gaunt's Hospital had begun—the corporation had made application for the house of the Franciscans, or Grey Friars, in Lewin's Mead.<sup>6</sup> Friaries were fair game for municipalities. Forbidden by their statutes to possess wide estates (and therefore unattractive to the heavy speculator in monastic wealth) they yet contrived to hold gardens and orchards of the maximum size, always situated in the midst of towns, and very often forming valuable building sites. In Bristol there were four houses of friars. Besides the Franciscans, there were the Carmelites (or White Friars), near the site of the present Colston Hall, their terraced gardens stretching up the hill to the modern Park Row; the Austin Friars at Temple Gate; and the Dominicans (or Black Friars), off Broadmead. The White Friars were the richest, their house the fairest of all the houses

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H.*, Gloucestershire, ii. 78; J. Britton, *The History and Antiquities of the . . . Cathedral Church of Bristol* (1830), pp. 21–2.

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, xiv (pt. 2), 255; *ibid.*, xv. 48.

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale, *op. cit.*, vi (pt. 2), pp. 687–8; *V.C.H.*, Gloucestershire, ii. 116.

<sup>4</sup> *L. & P.*, vii. 472. For the property of the Hospital, see *vol. vi*, 192–204.

<sup>5</sup> It housed at the time of its dissolution a distinguished gentlewoman, Lady Jane Guildford, who, after begging in vain not to be disturbed, took a lease of the house of the nuns of St. Mary Magdalene (*L. & P.*, ix. 97; *ibid.*, xiii (pt. 1), p. 580).

<sup>6</sup> *Infra*, p. 25. For the friaries of Bristol, see G. E. Weare, *Collectanea relating to the Friars Minor . . . in Bristol* (1893), c. 1.

of the friars in Bristol, according to Leland,<sup>1</sup> and, as the visitor of 1538 said (in a revealing phrase) "mete for a gret man."<sup>2</sup>

Yet it was not a great man who gained it, but the corporation. The town's contacts with these small but active houses of friars had always been close and intimate. The friars were the great preachers of the age, and their work one which attracted the benefactions of townsfolk more easily than that of the greater monastic houses. Many of the corporation sermons were preached there, and the wills of fifteenth-century Bristolians bear frequent testimony to the esteem in which the friars were held.<sup>3</sup> Even as late as 1530, when the corporation agitated for the reduction of some of the royal customs-dues, they made a specific exception in favour of the prisage on wines owned by the friars.<sup>4</sup> But their popularity, like that of all the regular clergy, was by then on the wane, and in any case was no protection against the royal policy of dissolution. Moreover, the friars invited their own downfall, not by their wealth, which was small, but by their powers of preaching, which were great. They constituted too dangerous a power over opinion, and men who preached too often and too strongly in the fifteen-thirties were likely to preach themselves into trouble.

The trouble began in 1533, when Hugh Latimer came to deliver the Lenten sermons to the corporation in the church of the Black Friars.<sup>5</sup> His was the voice of a new doctrine, speaking against pilgrimages and the worship of saints, and he found ready hearers. Bristol was soon loud with the din of pulpit answering pulpit, and "sore infected" with contrary theologies. The Dominican Prior (Dr. John Hilsley) replied to Latimer with measured rebukes, while the Prior of the Benedictine house of St. James' (Father Hubberdyn) answered with a vehemence and abuse more typical of the times. The remarkable thing is that the corporation supported the new doctrines. In this same year, they appointed Thomas Cromwell Recorder,<sup>6</sup> and quite clearly were following the royal and parliamentary policy of anti-clericalism. Convocation appointed a commission to enquire

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by J. Tanner, *Notitia Monastica* (1744), p. 483.

<sup>2</sup> (Ed.) T. Wright, *Letters relating to the Suppression of the Monasteries* (Camden Soc., 1843), p. 198. It had accommodated Henry VII in 1497.

<sup>3</sup> Weare, *op. cit.*, 64-5.

<sup>4</sup> *L. & P.*, Addenda i (pt. 1), pp. 238-9.

<sup>5</sup> For this affair of 1533, see *L. & P.*, vi. 112-13, 186-7, 196-7, 255-6, 352-4, and 380.

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, p. 16.

into the dispute, and three ex-Mayors sat with the Abbot of St. Augustine's and another, to hear the parties. Gilbert Cogan, a Councillor who in this year became Chamberlain, went to the Warden of the Grey Friars (who must have been one of the anti-Latimer party) and warned him that whatever he testified to the commission, four hundred Bristolians would go and swear the opposite. The commission sent Hubberdyn to London, where he was imprisoned in the Tower, and Archbishop Cranmer paid the town a visit.<sup>1</sup> Latimer, who had started the trouble, was in 1535 consecrated Bishop of Worcester, in which diocese Bristol lay.

There were more complaints in 1535—this time of seditious preaching, i.e., incitement to resist the oath of supremacy. Another commission of enquiry was appointed, but we have no evidence which implicates the friars.<sup>2</sup> By this time they were hopelessly divided. Dr. Hilsley, of the Black Friars, leaving Bristol in 1534 to be a Prior Provincial of his order, had become a King's man, enforcing the oath on all friars.<sup>3</sup> He was appointed Bishop of Rochester in 1535. His successor, William Oliver, was an extreme Protestant. When in 1536 the Warden of the Grey Friars, Robert Sanderson, preached a sermon giving a scriptural defence of the order, Oliver replied from the Black Friars' pulpit that "his order was one of the oldest in England, but could avail nothing without faith, nor could a ship laden with friars' girdles or a dung cart full of monks' cowls help to justification."<sup>4</sup> At about the same time, reports reached the government of other sermons in Bristol—of one preacher who refrained from praying for the King at the time of the Pilgrimage of Grace, and of another who refused to abuse the bishop of Rome. Yet another commission was appointed in 1537, with the Mayor at its head; two preachers were imprisoned, and both Sanderson and Oliver left the town. It was typical of the comprehensiveness of Henry VIII's policy at this time that both Protestants and Papalists were unsafe under it.

The friars of Bristol were by this time hopelessly compromised and almost leaderless. Of the heads of the four houses, only the prior of the Austin friary remained at his post. Many friars had

<sup>1</sup> Seyer, *Memoirs*, ii. 215.

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, ix. 59.

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H.*, Gloucestershire, ii. 109.

<sup>4</sup> *L. & P.*, xii (pt. 1), p. 238. For these disputes of 1536-7, see *ibid.*, 528-30, and *The Reliquary*, ii (new ser.), 1888, pp. 75-83.



slipped away too.<sup>1</sup> The whole structure of the church was being dislocated by the King's calculated aggressions. In 1534 the oath of supremacy was forced on the monks and friars of Bristol.<sup>2</sup> In 1535, St. Augustine's, the queen of Bristol's monasteries, was humiliated by a visitation from Dr. Layton, one of Cromwell's agents.<sup>3</sup> In the following year, the act dissolving the smaller monasteries had only a small immediate effect (the suppression of the tiny nunnery of St. Mary Magdalene, which housed one novice and one elderly invalid nun),<sup>4</sup> but it presaged a calamitous future. Meantime, the authority of the corporation over the clergy had been growing. In the five years between 1533 and 1537, three commissions had enquired into the behaviour of the clergy, and on each of them the corporation had been represented. It had also procured the appointment of one of its members to the commission which, on the King's behalf, administered the dissolved nunnery of St. Mary Magdalene.<sup>5</sup>

Thus it is not surprising that when the government sent its agents to deal with the friars in 1538, the corporation was pleased to help. The visitor was the same Dr. Hilsley who, as Prior of the Dominicans in 1533, had opposed Latimer's doctrines. He quickly dealt with the White Friars,<sup>6</sup> who, only four in number now, had been left high and dry by the flight of their Prior, and were suffering both the unkindness of citizens (whose charity was now dried up) and the clamour of creditors. There were few valuables in the house, for the Prior had sold them before taking himself off. The four Carmelites were brought before the Mayor on 28 July, and swore that they surrendered voluntarily. The other Friaries were more difficult, especially those of the Grey Friars and the Austin Friars, and it was not until 10 September that they signed their capitulation.<sup>7</sup> The Warden of the Grey Friars, although a champion of the order, still counted on a certain influence at court, according to Hilsley.<sup>8</sup> On the same day as this surrender, the corporation wrote to Cromwell, begging the grant of the house and possessions of the Grey Friars, and alleging that it had been built of old by the generosity of the burgesses.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *L. & P.*, vii. 601; *V.C.H.*, loc. cit.

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, vii. 472, 601.

<sup>3</sup> (ed.) T. Wright, op. cit., 58-9.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H.*, Gloucestershire, ii. 93.

<sup>5</sup> *L. & P.*, x. 481.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, xiii (pt. 1), pp. 538, 548-9, 549-50.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, xiii (pt. 2), pp. 78, 124-5.

<sup>8</sup> (ed.) T. Wright, op. cit., 211.

<sup>9</sup> *L. & P.*, xiii (pt. 2), p. 126.

This petition, and the subsequent petition of 1539, asking for the grant of Gaunt's Hospital, both received the royal consent in the charter of 1541. Because, however, the lands of the hospital had been deprived of a valuable manor—that of Paulett Gaunts, Somerset—the corporation was given as compensation the manor of Hamp in Somerset (lately belonging to Athelney Abbey), two paddocks on St. Michael's Hill (from the possessions of the nunnery of St. Mary Magdalene), and also the White Friars in Bristol.<sup>1</sup> The Black Friars had already been granted to William Chester, who as Mayor had taken part in the negotiations of 1538–39, while the Austin Friars lay for a while longer in the King's hands until assigned in 1544 to William Dennis, who since 1540 had been receiver of rents of the lands of the Hospitallers.<sup>2</sup>

The country estates in Somerset and Gloucestershire, obtained in 1541, came to form the chamber's largest single source of revenue in the sixteenth century. By the fifteen-eighties they were producing on the average a gross annual return of £315.<sup>3</sup> The Gaunt's buildings were of less account: the master's house was leased, and (according to Barrett) the other buildings, apart from the church, destroyed.<sup>4</sup> In 1590 the city handed over the mansion to the new foundation of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, and made the church into the Mayor's Chapel.<sup>5</sup> In 1706 all the buildings except the chapel were pulled down, and the orchard let off in building sites, to form the present Orchard Street.<sup>6</sup> The last contribution made to Bristol by the Gaunt's estates was in 1838, when the sale of Stockland and Earthcott realized £53,500 to pay off the debts of the old corporation.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is made clear by P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Particulars for Grants, E. 318/713. Hamp was sold in 1694 (C.C.P., 1687–1702, p. 101).

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, xvi. 714; *ibid.*, xix (pt. 1), p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> This figure is calculated from the returns given in A.B., vol. xi. The corporation had to pay off the servants of the Hospital in 1541, and to provide annuities for the five priests of the foundation. By 1586 only one annuitant remained (A.B., xi. 346).

<sup>4</sup> Barrett, *History of Bristol*, 376. For the master's house (for which there was some competition), see *L. & P.*, xiv (pt. 2), pp. 255–6, and *ibid.*, xv. 19, 567. The commissioners in charge of the dissolution intended making the other buildings into houses (P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Misc. Bks. no. 494, fo. 53).

<sup>5</sup> See *Annals*, i. 98–9; W. R. Barker, *St. Mark's, or the Mayor's Chapel, Bristol* (1892). At the Dissolution, the commissioners intended to make the chapel into a parish church (P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Misc. Bks. no. 494, fo. 252). Services were probably held there after the Dissolution, for one of the chaplains of the late Hospital received an annual fee of £4 in addition to his pension (A.B., viii. 188, 192).

<sup>6</sup> B.R.L., Braik. Coll. MSS., x. 3.

<sup>7</sup> C.T. Cash Book, 1835–40, pp. 124–5.

The value of the friaries, on the other hand, consisted only in their buildings and sites.<sup>1</sup> The White Friars, the largest of them, was let to several tenants before the buildings and part of the land were sold to Alderman Thomas Chester.<sup>2</sup> This estate was later the site of two great Bristol houses—Sir John Young's house on St. Augustine's Back (near the present Colston Hall), where Queen Elizabeth stayed on her state visit of 1574, and Red Lodge, which still stands in Park Row. Grey Friars was let to one Jeremy Green, who was a cousin of Cromwell's principal agent in Bristol, William Popley.<sup>3</sup> Many of its buildings were pulled down immediately: some of the timber going to Newgate "to repair a Jakes and a well there."<sup>4</sup> The Dissolution brought many indignities to the monastic churches of Bristol—the corporation used tombstones and monuments to repair the quay, and service-books to bind its ledgers.<sup>5</sup> Now timber from the house of Observant Franciscans was sent to mend a prison jakes. Secularization could hardly go further.

By the second of these Dissolution charters, that of 1544, the city bought Temple Fee, lately belonging to the Hospitallers; a small plot of land on Bristol bridge belonging to the priory of Witham; and thirdly (and much the most lucrative) all the Bristol possessions of the late Viscount Lisle. The circumstances of this grant are obscure, and the first specific news we have of the corporation's interest in the properties is the petition of 30 June, 1544, asking for their cession.<sup>6</sup> But a petition was the end rather than the beginning of the diplomacy of the affair.

The Hospital was dissolved in 1540.<sup>7</sup> Two years later, in March, 1542, there died Viscount Lisle, who was an illegitimate son of Edward IV, and to whom had descended by marriage the

<sup>1</sup> There was also a prisage on fish, belonging jointly to the Black and Grey Friars, which the corporation gained, and farmed out at £1 *p.a.* (A.B., iv. 103).

<sup>2</sup> The Crown let it on lease in 1540 (*L. & P.*, xv. 565), and the corporation leased it to other individuals until c. 1558 (A.B., iii. 467, iv. 103, v. 96, 115). See *Annals*, i. 119–21, where Latimer's statement that the friary was sold to Chester soon after 1541 is misleading.

<sup>3</sup> *L. & P.*, xv. 361, 566.

<sup>4</sup> A.B., iii. 297. The close and gardens were leased to Mr. Tyndale in 1551 (*ibid.*, p. 379). The rent from the buildings ceased in 1558, by which time the site was probably cleared, except for the church, which was in that year leased to Mrs. Davis (*ibid.*, v. 266).

<sup>5</sup> *Annals*, i. 66; C.T. 04027; A.B., vol. viii.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Particulars for Grants, E. 318/172.

<sup>7</sup> 32 Henry VIII, c. 24.

Bristol lands of the Chedder family.<sup>1</sup> His wife had died twelve years before, and the estates passed by purchase into the hands of the Crown, in November, 1543.<sup>2</sup> Meantime, it is certain that the corporation had begun negotiations for their acquisition. Viscount Lisle had died under suspicion of plotting against the Crown, though he had been acquitted, after a long imprisonment, just before his death. Moreover, his agent in Bristol, William Popley, was also Cromwell's man of affairs in the town and in constant touch with the corporation.<sup>3</sup> The first record of the corporation's interest is a series of entries in the Audit Books for 1541-42, which reveal that the Chamberlain went to London, searched for the audit of the Lisle estate, breakfasted with the Recorder in order to talk over Court of Augmentation matters, and purchased an extent of the lands of Witham Priory.<sup>4</sup> If, as seems possible, the "Court of Augmentation matters" concerned Temple Fee, then this marks the beginning of the negotiations.

The district known as Temple Fee was, like St. Augustine's Green, a juridical *enclave* in which an ecclesiastical corporation could defy the law of the municipality. The Prior of the Hospital claimed sanctuary for murderers, felons and debtors; control of the market in Temple Street (with assize of bread and ale), and view of frankpledge. The Mayor had in 1533-34 taken his complaints to Star Chamber; and the result was a judgment which allowed the officers of the town to enter the liberty at will to arrest felons and execute writs, but postponed decision on the other points.<sup>5</sup> Soon the Knights Hospitallers were engulfed in the general *débâcle* of the regular clergy, and the town could press home its advantage.

The two charters of 1541 and 1544 had the effect, therefore, not only of transferring to the corporation several estates of great and growing value, but also of abolishing the two ecclesiastical liberties of St. Augustine's and Temple Fee, and of giving to the municipality full authority within its own boundaries. The third

<sup>1</sup> For Lisle, see *D.N.B.*, and G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, vol. viii. For the Lisle lands, see *L. & P.*, i (pt. 2), p. 1116, and *ibid.*, xviii (pt. 1), p. 264. It is curious that the charter of 1544 did not mention the advowson of St. Lawrence's, which was included in the Lisle estates. The church was converted into a warehouse, and the parish later united with that of St. John (*Annals*, i. 66; J. Bacon, *Liber Regis* (1786), pp. 109-10).

<sup>2</sup> *L. & P.*, xviii (pt. 1), p. 264.

<sup>3</sup> I. S. Leadam, *Select Cases in Star Chamber*, ii. 262 n. 34.

<sup>4</sup> *A.B.*, iii. 71.

<sup>5</sup> P.R.O., Star Chamber Proceedings, Henry VIII, vol. vi, fos. 93-4 *Annals*, i. 16-17.

of the series—that of 1548—is by comparison of minor importance. It granted to the city the building, without the lands, of the Chapel on the Bridge, which was the shrine of a fraternity closely associated with the corporation. The Mayor was *ex officio* master of the fraternity,<sup>1</sup> and in a room underneath the Chapel (which was built transversely across the bridge, spanning the road by an archway), meetings and banquets of the corporation were often held.<sup>2</sup> But to be granted only the building without the endowments, and to have no share in the distribution of the estates of the thirty other chantries of Bristol, represented a rebuff rather than a triumph for the corporation.

When the first act confiscating chantries was passed in 1545,<sup>3</sup> the city had been prompt in staking out its claims. A committee of Council was appointed to "search the foundations" of certain chantries (the corporation being patrons of eleven), and the Chamberlain was sent to London to enquire about the prospects of obtaining the Chapel on the Bridge and other chantries.<sup>4</sup> Meantime, the commission appointed under the act visited Bristol in 1546, and received the hospitality and gifts of the corporation.<sup>5</sup> The death of the King in January, 1547, put an end to its proceedings. Later in the same year, the act of suppression was re-issued in a wider form, to include guilds and fraternities,<sup>6</sup> and in the next year another commission came to the city, and, having the researches of the previous commission to guide it, made quick despatch of its work.<sup>7</sup>

The city was powerless to obtain any substantial concessions from the Crown. Protector Somerset was Lord High Steward of the city, and no doubt Bristol expected him to render account of his Lord High Stewardship, but she was outbidden by Sir Miles Partridge, who paid £4,258 17s. 6d. for the endowments of all the Bristol chantries.<sup>8</sup> Partridge was a Gloucestershire man, the friend and reputedly evil genius of Somerset, and was later

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Clifton Antiq. Club*, iv. 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5; P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Misc. Bks. no. 68, fo. 159 b; O.O.B., fo. 6.

<sup>3</sup> 37 Henry VIII, c. 4.

<sup>4</sup> A.B., iii. 317-18, 322; *Ricart* (ed. Smith), 76.

<sup>5</sup> *L. & P.*, xx (pt. 1), p. 147.

<sup>6</sup> 1 Edward VI, c. 14.

<sup>7</sup> A.B., iv. 52. Latimer (in *Annals*, i. 20), says that Somerset was a member of this commission; but this seems *prima facie* unlikely, and I can find no evidence for it. His son visited Bristol at this time (A.B., iv. 98).

<sup>8</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1548-9, pp. 102-12.

executed for plotting against Warwick; his financial backer, Sir William Sharington, was Master of the Mint at Bristol, and himself only just escaped execution for fraud and embezzlement in 1549.<sup>1</sup> The city stood no chance against such competition. But it must have pressed for further concessions, for in 1548 it was given, by special grace, the quit-rents from the Bristol property of the Chapel on the Bridge, on condition that they were spent on the maintenance of the bridge and quays, and the support of the poor.<sup>2</sup> The grant came at a time when the corporation was spending a great deal on the quays, and on the construction of houses on the bridge, but had ceased by 1560.<sup>3</sup> The Chapel itself was let to various individuals, until its demolition in 1644.<sup>4</sup>

The cost of these grants to the corporation can be roughly estimated. For the grant of 1541, the round sum of £1,000 was paid; for that of 1544, £789 17s. 10d.; and for that of 1548, £40. These were the charges to the Crown: in addition there were legal fees which (with the exception of the £88 for the Chapel on the Bridge)<sup>5</sup> are unknown. But taking into account the fact that the assets transferred with the Chapel all but paid the expenses of the grant, the total cost of all these grants must have been rather more than £2,000. The Crown's charge for the Chapel was paid in cash from the chamber<sup>6</sup>; for the others more elaborate arrangements had to be made.

The full truth about the transactions will probably never be told, since the books in which the corporation kept these accounts have been missing since at least the early eighteenth century.<sup>7</sup> There are fragments of information to be found in the Audit Books and elsewhere, but the historian who attempts with their aid to hunt for the truth, has to cast about among faint and half-smothered trails. There is contemporary evidence in the official "Mayor's Calendar" that in 1541 the corporation paid £600 in

<sup>1</sup> For Partridge and Sharington, see *D.N.B.*

<sup>2</sup> A.B., iv. 115-19. The Crown also refrained from taking the lead from the Chapel.

<sup>3</sup> The last entry concerning them is in A.B., v. 240.

<sup>4</sup> A.B., v. 281; C.T. 00719 (8); *Annals*, ii. 224.

<sup>5</sup> A full account of the costs of this grant was entered into the Audit Book for 1547-8, and is printed below in App. B, pp. 233-6.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Misc. Bks. no. 68, fo. 160.

<sup>7</sup> We have references to "Mr. Campden's booke" and "Mr. White's booke" in A.B., iv. 86, and *ibid.*, v. 268. That they were missing in 1713 is clear enough from *Manchee*, i. 131-2. Very possibly they passed into White's possession.

cash towards the £1,000 owing for the Gaunt's Hospital and the friaries.<sup>1</sup> If Seyer's account of the affair is correct (he based it apparently on a town chronicle) this sum was made up mostly of contributions of church-plate voted to the corporation (not very willingly) by the parishes of the town, and amounting to £523 10s. 8d.<sup>2</sup> We also know from the Audit Book of 1540-41 that the first year's revenue from the lands acquired in 1541 (c. £82) went towards the purchase price,<sup>3</sup> and these two sums added together may comprise the £600 mentioned in the "Mayor's Calendar." How the remaining £400 was paid off we cannot say.

In 1544 the corporation had to find £789 for the Temple and Lisle lands. It seems that this sum, together with the balance of the debt of 1541, was borrowed from Alderman Thomas White, a merchant-tailor of London, whose benefactions (especially the foundation a few years later of Merchant Taylors' School and of St. John's College, Oxford) were on a princely scale.<sup>4</sup> The circumstances and terms of the transaction are obscure, and no light is thrown on them by the Bristol archives. But the history of a similar loan which White made to Coventry shortly before, and about which there is information available, is suggestive.<sup>5</sup> With Coventry, as with Bristol, White had dealings through the cloth trade, and in 1542 he advanced to the corporation a large sum for the purchase of certain monastic lands, whose revenue was thereafter paid partly to the corporation and partly to the poor of Coventry. In 1551 the whole fund was converted into a trust for charitable uses, the corporation being excused repayment of the original loan, but paying to White during his lifetime any surplus income.

<sup>1</sup> Ricart, fo. 143 b; cf. also Adams, *Chronicle*, 92.

<sup>2</sup> Seyer, *Memoirs*, ii. 226, based probably on B.R.L., Bristol MSS. no. 10166 sub 1546. Latimer also gives the date as 1546, and describes how the gift of plate was part of a bargain whereby the corporation abolished the duties on goods coming by land (*Annals*, i. 14-15). I have been unable to verify this statement—unfortunately the Audit Books are incomplete for these years. It may well be that the payments of plate were spread over several years. Certainly they still caused resentment in some parishes in 1548 (A.B., iv. 98).

<sup>3</sup> A.B., ii. 364.

<sup>4</sup> C. M. Clode, *Early History of the Guild of Merchant Tailors* (1888), pp. 101, 177; *Annals*, i. 14; *D.N.B.* sub White. Unfortunately, I have not been allowed access to the Merchant Taylors' archives in London, where the answers to some of these Bristol problems may possibly be found.

<sup>5</sup> I am grateful to Miss Lancaster, the City Archivist of Coventry, for looking at the accounts of the Coventry loan for me (Coventry City MSS., Account Book of the Manor of Cheylesmore, 1542-61). The matter is summarised in Clode, *op. cit.*, 101, 103, 105.

In many respects, what we know of the Bristol affair implies that a similar procedure was followed. As we have seen, the money was advanced in 1545. In 1566, the corporation entered into an indenture, at White's request, with the Merchant Taylors' Company and St. John's College, Oxford, whereby they agreed to devote the proceeds of an endowment of £2,000 to the purposes defined in the deed.<sup>1</sup> Bristol thereby became the custodian of a trust-fund which provided loans to young clothiers and gifts to the poor of twenty-four corporations, each of the corporations enjoying the proceeds in rotation. White died in 1567, and ten years later the payments to the other corporations began.

But many difficulties remain. First, as to the amount of the original loan, which Clode gave as £2,000. The corporation lawyers, who examined the matter in 1713, were unable to discover the facts, and took the view that there had been a loan of £1,000, and that the £2,000 of the 1566 indenture represented the unpaid capital and arrears of interest.<sup>2</sup> This seems a little unlikely, for the city's debts incurred by land-purchases in 1545 were at least £1,600, and the fact that they went on to spend almost £1,000 between 1548 and 1552 on building-schemes<sup>3</sup> suggests that they had acquired some reserves. Next, as to the terms of the loan. The city kept certain accounts in "Mr. White's booke," but we do not know what they comprised.<sup>4</sup> The Audit Books of the period record no payments to White,<sup>5</sup> which suggests that they were entered in this separate account. The Audit Books do occasionally refer to "Mr. White's alms,"<sup>6</sup> so that certain sums were paid to the poor. On the other hand, until 1561, the revenues of the lands gained by the grants of 1541 and 1544 were paid into the chamber and then absorbed into the general funds of the corporation. The evidence suggests, therefore, an arrangement similar to that with Coventry, by which the town and White shared most of the proceeds, but gave sums to charity.

But around 1561 something happened to alter these arrangements. Between that year and the year of the indenture (i.e. 1561-66) the accounts of the Temple and Lisle lands gained in

<sup>1</sup> C.T. 01286; printed in *Manchee*, i. 127 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> *Manchee*, i. 131-2.

<sup>3</sup> A.B., iii. 487-504; *ibid.*, iv. 159; *ibid.*, v. 69-81. White gave £100 towards the building of houses on the bridge (*ibid.*, iv. 121).

<sup>4</sup> In 1558 the Chamberlain was sent to London about the finishing of Mr. White's book (A.B., v. 268).

<sup>5</sup> In A.B., v. 106, there is mention of the rents of Mr. White of London.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 262.



1544 were transferred from the Audit Books to a separate account, which has survived.<sup>1</sup> This makes it clear that White controlled the expenditure of these revenues at this time, and that some of them went to the poor. In these years there were constant negotiations between him and the city,<sup>2</sup> which resulted in the indenture of 1566. That instrument makes plain much of the story. It states that Bristol had received (at some time unspecified) a loan of £2,000, some of which had been used to purchase the Temple and Lisle lands, which brought in £76 *p.a.* The corporation by this indenture covenanted to buy more lands in the next four years so as to bring the total annual revenue to £120, "or more."<sup>3</sup> This is as far as our information carries us.

According to the terms of the agreement, the city had within the next four years to buy land to the value of £44 *p.a.* in order to raise the income to the proper total. Once again, the records do not tell us exactly what happened. We know that in June, 1567, they borrowed something over £450 for the purchase of land;<sup>4</sup> and that in May, 1569, they obtained from the Crown a licence in mortmain allowing them to hold the trust-fund of £120 *p.a.*<sup>5</sup> But the only purchase of which we have record is that of the Dursley and Woodmancote estate in Gloucestershire in July, 1569, which brought in £10 *p.a.* and cost £167.<sup>6</sup> In 1584-5, when we first have evidence about the state of the trust-fund, it included these and other properties and produced an income of £185 *p.a.*<sup>7</sup>

The last charter in this series—that of 1584—was occasioned by a sudden and unexpected difficulty. In 1574 the corporation acquired by bequest a group of Bristol properties worth £20 *p.a.* from Thomas Hart, who had died in 1541.<sup>8</sup> In 1583 there descended on Bristol the agents of Sir James Croft, Privy

<sup>1</sup> C.T. 04046. These accounts are continued in a volume for 1584-5 (C.T. 00639), another for 1615-18 (C.T. 04047), and thereafter for scattered years in the seventeenth century until 1656.

<sup>2</sup> *E.g.*, A.B., vii. 137, 221, and C.T. 04046, *passim*.

<sup>3</sup> C.T. 01286 m. 1, printed in *Manchee*, i. 127. That the original loan was an old one is suggested by the fact that White was in financial difficulties after c. 1561 (Clode, *op. cit.*, 147-8, 175-6).

<sup>4</sup> O.O.B., fos. 24-24b.

<sup>5</sup> *Infra*, pp. 119-21. The expenses of this grant are printed in App. C., pp. 237-9.

<sup>6</sup> C.T. 01025 (14), (16), (17), (18). The property was sold in 1918 for £6,149 (C.T. 09083 (1), Country Rental, fo. 514).

<sup>7</sup> C.T. 00639.

<sup>8</sup> C.T. 01026 (3); C.T. 04421 (1), Great Orphan Book and Book of Wills, 1382-1633, fos. 259 b-260 b.

Councillor and Comptroller of the Queen's Household, empowered by commission to search for and seize all concealed Crown lands.<sup>1</sup> A general survey of city lands was ordered,<sup>2</sup> and the commission claimed the Thomas Hart estates, on the ground that Hart had been attainted and his property thereby escheated to the Crown.<sup>3</sup> The corporation had been administering the properties for the widow since 1557, and (according to the terms of Hart's will) had been enjoying their revenue ever since her death in 1574.<sup>4</sup> The Town Clerk rode to London and sent evidences to the Recorder, who got the Attorney-General to see Sir James Croft himself.<sup>5</sup> Croft was an old blackguard, suspected of treason in the Scottish war of 1559-61, who had now climbed back into favour, and was conducting, without any very great scruple,<sup>6</sup> a nation-wide search for concealed Crown lands, the Queen recovering the revenue and he himself pocketing the composition fees. In this case the corporation paid him £80, and in return the Queen granted the estate at an annual rent of 26s. 8d.<sup>7</sup> The property was let in fee-farm and its revenue allocated, in July, 1585, to the Sir Thomas White trust.<sup>8</sup>

Such were the facts which lay behind the smooth words of Elizabeth's charter of 1584, with its polite references to "our beloved servant and Councillor," Sir James Croft (soon to be involved in dealings with the Spanish enemy), and its bland account of his petition to the Crown on the city's behalf.

The processes had been tortuous and expensive, but the corporation, thanks mainly to Sir Thomas White, had gained its share of the land marketed at the time of the Reformation. And, again thanks to Sir Thomas White, a part of the proceeds had been devoted to charity. But even the White lands, tied by the clauses of a trust, turned to gold as land values rose. In 1584-85 Bristol had, apparently, a surplus of £65, after fulfilling

<sup>1</sup> For the commission, see *C.S.P.D.*, Addenda 1580-1625, pp. 91-2. For Croft, see *D.N.B.*

<sup>2</sup> *O.O.B.*, fo. 51.

<sup>3</sup> *C.T.* 00292 (5) e, (a memorandum of 1710). I have been unable to discover anything about this attainder, for which this memorandum is my only authority.

<sup>4</sup> *A.B.*, v. 244; *ibid.*, ix. 331.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, xi. 235, 239, 263.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. *C.S.P.D.*, 1581-90, p. 292.

<sup>7</sup> *A.B.*, xi. 253, 263.

<sup>8</sup> *C.T.* 01026 (4); *A.B.*, xi. 263; *O.O.B.*, fos. 54-54 b.

her obligations.<sup>1</sup> In 1591 it was £100.<sup>2</sup> During the Civil War, she paid nothing to the other corporations, and in the eighteenth century was making a steady profit of £30-£50 *p.a.* Again and again the other corporations attempted to gain a share in the bonus, but all their actions in Chancery availed nothing.<sup>3</sup> From 1787 onwards, Bristol made really large sums, by selling land and devising new leases. Some of the estates were embezzled by a defaulting Chamberlain who was dismissed in 1822,<sup>4</sup> but the Charity Commissioners, who examined the matter in 1836, decided that the corporation could not justly be said to have mismanaged the trust.<sup>5</sup> Since 1893 the revenue (now strictly limited to £104 *p.a.*, available to Bristol every twenty-fourth year) has been spent on Bristol Grammar School.<sup>6</sup>

### (III) THE CORPORATION AND THE CROWN, 1660-1710

#### (Numbers XXIII, XXIV and XXV)

At the Restoration the corporation was confronted by a complicated problem of reorganization. The existing members, appointed mostly during the time of troubles, went through the gestures expected of them—bonfires, toasts, a congratulatory address, and a present to the King of £500 in gold (lent by old Joseph Jackson, a leader of the sectaries).<sup>7</sup> These things done, they waited uneasily on events, or (in some cases) retired into an ostentatiously private life. The difficulty, for the corporation as for the country as a whole, was to restore the old order and the old personnel, as far as they could be restored, without completely disorganizing administration. The King and the government,

<sup>1</sup> C.T. 00639.

<sup>2</sup> These and the following figures are taken from a nineteenth-century summary of the White accounts, C.T. 04194 (1).

<sup>3</sup> The principal actions were in 1713, 1723 and 1818; see C.C.P., 1702-22, pp. 330-1; C.T. 00292 (6) b; *Manchee*, i. 132-4. But in the similar case of the Sir Thomas White charity administered by Coventry, the corporations which were beneficiaries of the trust succeeded in getting shares of the increased income (R. W. Greaves, *The Corporation of Leicester*, 1689-1836, p. 88).

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1820-23, p. 267. Beaven (*Bristol Lists*, 235) does not mention this dismissal.

<sup>5</sup> *Manchee*, i. 134.

<sup>6</sup> I am indebted to Mr. W. Leighton for this information.

<sup>7</sup> A.B., xxix. 50. Jackson was M.P. for Bristol in 1659.

whilst seeing the need for strong action to rid the corporation of rebels and puritans, were unable to formulate immediately any complete and detailed instructions, and often tended, under the influence of Clarendon, to go more carefully than suited the intemperate feelings of Bristol's loyalists. It was not until December, 1661, that the government had ready a scheme of reorganization for the corporations of the country.

Meantime, the parties in Bristol faced each other: the ex-rebels in control, and the royalists, a small and unorganized group completely without power, though not now without influence. The royalists were able to carry one of the seats in the elections to the Convention Parliament in April, 1660.<sup>1</sup> In June they launched their attack on the corporation. There was in their party a "shadow-group" of four Aldermen and fourteen Councillors, composed of men who had been excluded by the parliamentary ordinance of 1645, or who had been refused office since.<sup>2</sup> In addition, there were several Councillors in office who had been elected before 1645, and others who could probably be relied on.<sup>3</sup> It was difficult to get unity of action amongst these individuals—some were old and sick of politics, others inaccessible in their country retreats.<sup>4</sup> But in June, 1660, seven of the excluded members attempted to regain their seats—one by an address to the corporation, the others by writs of *mandamus* issued out of King's Bench.<sup>5</sup> The Council admitted four immediately, and a fifth in November.<sup>6</sup> Their success, however, served in a sense only to demonstrate their weakness—they were a small minority in the Council chamber, and liable to be promoted out of malice to the most onerous and expensive offices of the corporation, to the beggary of fortunes already reduced by decimations and sequestrations.<sup>7</sup>

Led by Henry Creswick, son of the Mayor excluded by Parliament in 1645, five of them therefore petitioned the House of Lords in July for a complete purge of the corporation so as to

<sup>1</sup> *Annals*, ii. 293.

<sup>2</sup> P.R.O., S[tate] P[apers] Dom[estic], Charles II, xiv. 155. I do not mean to suggest by the word "shadow-group" that they were an organized body. For the ordinance of 1645, see C. H. Firth and R. S. Rait, *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum*, i. 797-8.

<sup>3</sup> In early 1660 a royalist listed seven of the existing Council as "sober and judicious" (*Annals*, ii. 291-2).

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, xxxiv. 125.

<sup>5</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, pp. 23, 27.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, loc. cit.

<sup>7</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, loc. cit.

give them control.<sup>1</sup> The Lords recommended them to appeal to the King, and on 10 September (just before election-day) they sent to the Crown a list of fourteen Aldermen and Councillors who could be removed to make room for their "shadow-group," who would then, once admitted, fill up the numbers of the Council to the forty-three required by the charter.<sup>2</sup> But the King could not simply effect this by proclamation without himself violating the charters, and on 24 September he sent a letter putting the responsibility on the corporation, ordering them to remove those of the members appointed by Parliament in 1645 who survived, and to restore all excluded loyalists to their places<sup>3</sup>—which was something rather less than the loyalists had asked for. Meantime, on 15 September, Creswick had been elected Mayor, and another of his party (Gregson) one of the Sheriffs. The King named a third as a Deputy-Lieutenant at about the same time.<sup>4</sup>

In office but not in power, the loyalists' leaders found their position acutely embarrassing. Creswick did not venture to read to the Council the King's order of 24 September until the following January (1661), and then it had no effect.<sup>5</sup> He, for his part, seems to have been unable, or (as some said) unwilling,<sup>6</sup> to force the issue. At least two of his followers now refused to accept nomination to the Council in the existing state of parties there.<sup>7</sup> But by this time the government had had time to formulate a policy. In February, 1661, it compelled the corporation to action by bringing a *quo warranto* which would be executed a fortnight after Easter.<sup>8</sup> On 2 April, the King repeated his order for a purge.<sup>9</sup>

The Council, without any bidding from Creswick, was now all a-twitter to protect its liberties. On 9 April, 1661, they sent a petition to the King praying that a stop be put to the *quo warranto* proceedings, and asking for a confirmation of their charters.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Journals of the House of Lords*, xi. 87.

<sup>2</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, xiv. 154-8.

<sup>3</sup> C.S.P.D., 1660-1, p. 274.

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, xi. 185.

<sup>5</sup> C.S.P.D., 1660-1, pp. 570-1. Latimer (*Annals*, ii. 297), wrongly states that the letter was never read during Creswick's mayoralty.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom. Charles II, xxxiv. no. 38. He was said to have been anxious to protect his relatives.

<sup>7</sup> C.S.P.D., 1660-1, pp. 570-1.

<sup>8</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 36.

<sup>9</sup> C.S.P.D., 1660-1, p. 562.

<sup>10</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, pp. 36-7.

The Mayor went to London, and with the aid of £300 hurriedly borrowed by the corporation for the purpose, succeeded in stopping the *quo warranto*.<sup>1</sup> But he was unable to forward the business of the confirmation. A second visit, and a second petition, with all the help that the Recorder and Members of Parliament could give, were likewise unavailing.<sup>2</sup> The government was waiting for the corporation to prove its good faith by carrying out the purge.<sup>3</sup>

This it did in the autumn of 1661. In August, four loyalists were re-admitted to their places, and an equal number of reliable men elected,<sup>4</sup> while in September another member of the group re-admitted in the previous year (Nathaniel Cole) was raised to the chair in succession to Creswick. This was still not enough. In October came another order from the King for the dismissal of those appointed during the troubles, and of all the disaffected.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, Secretary Nicholas recommended prudence and moderation.<sup>6</sup> On 30 October the Mayor and a group of eight loyalists met and, acting under this and the two preceding orders, dismissed thirty-four of their colleagues, and within the course of the next few weeks, elected forty-one trustworthy men (some from the thirty-four) in their places.<sup>7</sup>

Some may have thought that the government could not any longer deny to the corporation the confirmation of its charters. But Parliament was now busy putting the finishing touches to a bill for the regulating of all corporations. This bill, which received royal assent in December, imposed on members of corporations certain tests which were meant to weed out Dissenters and rebels—the oaths of obedience and supremacy, together with a new oath of non-resistance and a new declaration against the Solemn League and Covenant. In addition it empowered commissioners appointed for each corporation to enforce its terms, giving them wide discretionary powers in the appointing and removing of officers.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A.B., xxix. 55.

<sup>2</sup> P.R.O., P[rivy] C[ouncil] Reg[ister], 1660-2, pp. 219-20.

<sup>3</sup> This is implicit in the King's original letter of 24 September, 1660 (*supra*), and explicit in the wording of the reference to the Attorney-General P.R.O., S.P.Entry Bks., Unclassified, xiii. 135).

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 41.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 45.

<sup>6</sup> C.S.P.D., 1661-2, p. 107.

<sup>7</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 47. Sixteen were re-appointed from among the sworn and unsworn members; twenty-five were new appointments. Five refused to serve; but, even so, the Council contained more than the legal number. But only rarely did more than twenty-five attend meetings.

<sup>8</sup> 13 Charles II, Stat. 2, c. 1.

Doubtless confirmation of Bristol's charters was delayed until she should have passed this new examination.<sup>1</sup>

The commissioners appointed for Bristol must have found that most of their work had been done already by the re-organization of the previous autumn. The changes that remained to be made were few, and the administration of the Corporation Act in Bristol's case was remarkable for its mildness.<sup>2</sup> The Mayor was made one of the commissioners—in itself a rare concession<sup>3</sup>—and in response to his appeal, the King agreed to allow the commission full freedom over appointments, even to the disregard of his own recommendations.<sup>4</sup> The principal results of the commission's work were the replacement of the Recorder, and the appointment of a new Chamberlain, a new Steward of the Tolzey Court, and about five new Councillors.<sup>5</sup> The Town-Clerk, Robert Aldworth, emerged unscathed, although, as an official appointed during the troubles, and a prominent Commonwealthsman (Colonel of the militia, and M.P., 1654–8), his claims had been challenged ever since the Restoration.<sup>6</sup>

On 4 April, 1662, the Council, at a meeting attended by twenty-seven members, took the oaths, and now resumed negotiations for a confirmation.<sup>7</sup> In July they presented their third petition for the grant.<sup>8</sup> Annexed to the petition was a list of additional privileges which had been asked for in much the same form over a year before, when negotiations had started. There were two main requests:—the first for a narrowing of the parliamentary franchise so as to exclude freemen (leaving Councillors and freeholders as

<sup>1</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1663–4, p. 37. Cf. *E.H.R.*, xlv. 238.

<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, the records of the commission have disappeared.

<sup>3</sup> *E.H.R.*, xlv. 252.

<sup>4</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1661–2, p. 319.

<sup>5</sup> The Recorder, John Stephens, having survived the purge of 1661 by virtue of Secretary Nicholas's protection, was now allowed to retire for reasons of health (*C.S.P.D.*, 1661–2, p. 148; *C.C.P.*, 1659–75, pp. 58–9). The King tried in 1660 to have a Scotsman made Chamberlain, but allowed the claims of a royalist Councillor, John Thruston (*C.C.P.*, 1659–75, p. 29; *C.S.P.D.*, 1660–1, p. 603). Thruston's appointment was confirmed by a vote of Council (*C.C.P.*, 1659–75, p. 54). The new Steward, John Robins, was not even a burgess at this time, but made up for that by his strong royalism (*C.C.P.*, 1659–75, p. 71). For the Councillors, see *ibid.*, 65; two were dismissed for refusing the oaths.

<sup>6</sup> Aldworth was confirmed in office by the King in October, 1660, shortly after Charles had promised the office to Samuel Rycaut (*C.S.P.D.*, 1660–1, p. 349). For Rycaut's subsequent efforts to oust his rival, see *C.S.P.D.*, 1660–4, *sub* Rycaut.

<sup>7</sup> *C.C.P.*, 1659–75, p. 53.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 61.

the only voters), and the second for power to levy a fine of £500 on all burgesses who refused after proper election to accept office in the corporation.<sup>1</sup> The latter was undoubtedly necessary. Fines had always been levied on recusants to office, and an ordinance of 1635 had re-asserted the rule.<sup>2</sup> But the problem had become much more acute in 1660-62, and the corporation hoped that a clause in a charter would succeed where bye-laws had failed.<sup>3</sup>

The July petition had every appearance of being effectual. The Mayor spent £584 in London; the King expressed his satisfaction with the regulating of the corporation, and passed the petition to the Attorney-General, who reported in favour of a confirmation with the additions requested.<sup>4</sup> But Secretary Nicholas, writing to the Mayor on 16 September, 1662, omitted to give any promise, and told the corporation to proceed against recusants for contempt, and to send their names to the Privy Council.<sup>5</sup> In fact, these negotiations of 1662 were broken off, probably because Chancery was overwhelmed with the business of confirmations.<sup>6</sup> The next move came over a year later, in October, 1663, when the Recorder and Town-Clerk were instructed to resume them.<sup>7</sup> A warrant for the issue of a charter of confirmation was signed in December, which mentioned (with irrelevant politeness) that the grant was made because of the King's pleasure at the entertainment which the city had given his Queen and himself on their visit in the previous September.<sup>8</sup> The confirmation—the last of the *inspeximus* type ever issued to Bristol—was sealed in April, 1664, and was read (in the technical sense) at a Council meeting of 7 June.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> They also asked for powers to distrain and imprison in cases of defiance. Other requests were for the right to levy fines by distraint on all who refused obedience to ordinances, and a market for horses.

<sup>2</sup> C.T. 04273 (1), fo. 69b. Cf. *supra*, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> By September, 1662, nine burgesses elected to the Council had refused to serve. In September, 1663, the Mayor-elect refused office (C.C.P., 1659-75, pp. 91-2).

<sup>4</sup> *Annals*, ii. 308; P.R.O., S.P.Entry Bks., Unclassified, xiii. 135; C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 64.

<sup>5</sup> C.S.P.D., 1661-2, p. 490.

<sup>6</sup> Chancery was so busy that a special procedure for their issue was authorized, by which the signature of a Secretary of State sufficed instead of the sign manual, in all cases where no great alterations in the charters were made (C.S.P.D., 1663-4, p. 185).

<sup>7</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 93.

<sup>8</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Entry Bks., Unclassified, xv. 283.

<sup>9</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 104.



The chartered rights of the city were now as safe as nineteen membranes of parchment could make them, and the loyalists were secure in office and in power. The confirmation required all members of the corporation to take the oaths of obedience and supremacy (as was in any case necessary under the Corporation Act), and this they did on 7 June. Despite its bulk, the confirmation of 1664 was chiefly remarkable for what it omitted. It did not contain a single one of the additional privileges asked for by the corporation, although the Attorney-General had reported in favour of their being granted in 1662. Nor did it give to the Crown any right of nominating to particular offices. In 1660-61, the government had intended to insert into confirmatory charters new clauses which would reserve to the Crown the nomination of Recorders and of Town-Clerks, and which would also restrict the parliamentary franchises.<sup>1</sup> But by the summer of 1663 their plans had altered—the Corporation Act commissioners had done their work, and the House of Commons had made clear its objections to any tampering by prerogative with the parliamentary franchise.<sup>2</sup> Only in a few cases, therefore, was confirmation accompanied by drastic revision of the municipal constitution.<sup>3</sup> The failure of the corporation to have a special provision made against recusancy in the confirmation (although the Attorney-General had reported in favour of this in 1662) may be due to the fact that by August, 1663, the Council was filled to the legal maximum of forty-three—and beyond, if we count eight members who had not taken the oaths. Or it may be due to the government's calculation that if it refused to the corporation adequate powers over recusancy, it would reserve to itself an interest in, and indirect power over, its membership. Having received yet another petition about the recusants, the Privy Council, on 8 September, 1664, ordered a special meeting of Common Council to be summoned, at which was read a letter in the King's name ordering all to be present at the forthcoming election-day, and to choose persons of "knowne Integrity and Ability."<sup>4</sup> Absentees and recusants were to be reported to the King. By such means the Crown was able, at the least, to remind the corporation of its duty to elect politically reliable officers, to keep itself informed of the state of parties, and to

<sup>1</sup> C.S.P.D., 1660-1, p. 582.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. E.H.R., xlv., 243-4.

<sup>3</sup> E.g., T. Pape, *The Restoration Government and the Corporation of Newcastle-under-Lyme*, 26 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1659-75, pp. 103, 107; P.R.O., P.C.Reg., February-December, 1664, p. 217.

punish delinquents.<sup>1</sup> From that, it was not a long step to assert a more direct power over the membership of the corporation.

There were signs of this happening in the following year (1665), when, on 4 September, shortly before election-day, a letter arrived from the King ordering the choice of Mayor to be made from the Aldermen (although there was nothing in the charters to justify any such ruling).<sup>2</sup> In 1665 and in the three following years the Council was obedient to the King's directions, the letter of 4 September, 1665, being read at each election-day meeting. In 1669 a Councillor was chosen, but since he was a baronet well-known to the government for his loyalty,<sup>3</sup> there was no protest from Whitehall. Very different consequences followed a renewed defiance in September, 1670, when the retiring Mayor omitted to read the King's letter of 1665, and the Council raised to the chair another Councillor, John Knight, who in 1664 had fallen under the displeasure of both government and corporation for befriending the Dissenters.<sup>4</sup> The leading Anglican politician of Bristol, the new Mayor's cousin and namesake, Sir John Knight, raised a storm of protest, and denounced the Mayor and many of the Bench as "fanatics."<sup>5</sup> Angry letters from the Secretary of State annulled the election, ordered a new one, and commanded the Mayor's attendance on the Privy Council.<sup>6</sup> The Mayor was able, after a term of imprisonment or confinement, to satisfy the Council of his reliability, and the government allowed him to remain in office.<sup>7</sup> The incident served notice, as did the more drastic interference suffered by other towns at this time,<sup>8</sup> that charters were no longer any protection of municipal liberties.

<sup>1</sup> On 15 September, 1664, there were three absentees and no recusants, and six new members, previously unsworn, took the oaths (C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 109).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 121.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Robert Yeamans, son of one of the "Bristol Martyrs"; see *infra*, p. 65.

<sup>4</sup> *Annals*, ii. 325; P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1669-71, p. 293; C.S.P.D., 1670, p. 450. This John Knight must be distinguished from the other two John Knights who appear in this story. See *Notes and Queries* (29 April, 1899), iii. 321-3.

<sup>5</sup> *Annals*, ii. 355-6.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1669-71, pp. 293, 299, 364.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 377. He had been a royalist in the Civil Wars (C.T. 04447 (1), Quarter Sessions Books, 1653-71, sub 11 October, 1670). For his release, see *Annals*, ii. 356-7. At this time Parliament was anxious to tighten the rules against Dissent, and in Bristol persecution was intensified. See [E.] Terrill, [*Records of a Church of Christ meeting in Broadmead, Bristol, 1640-87*, ed. E. B. Underhill (Hanserd Knollys Soc., 1847)], p. 104.

<sup>8</sup> D. Ogg, *England under Charles II*, ii. 518-19.

Six years later a further stage in the progress of royal aggression was reached. Aldworth's death in 1676 left the Town-Clerkship vacant. The Lord-Lieutenant (the Marquis of Worcester) wrote to urge the choice of a loyal man ; on 21 March, the King sent a recommendation of John Romsey. After some delay, Romsey was elected.<sup>1</sup>

Worse was to come when the storms of the Popish Plot and the Exclusion controversy broke over the country in 1678-81, and carried it nearly to the edge of civil war. In Bristol, as in all chartered towns, they had the effect of destroying almost all the established rights of self-government which had been won in centuries of effort, and left the city exposed to the full rigours of royal control. The story culminates in the charter of reconstitution of 1684, and falls into two chapters—the first, from 1678 to 1682, when religious and political disputes split wide open the ranks of the corporation, eventually dislocating city government altogether ; and the second, from 1682 to 1684, when the pro-monarchical party gained control of the mayoralty and shrievalty, and, in collusion with the government, secured a surrender of the most important of the city's chartered rights, and by the new charter of 1684 put it under the direct management of Whitehall.

The temperature of municipal politics had run high throughout the reign. Bristol was a cathedral city which contained an ungovernable minority of Dissenters. Although the Dissenters did not in fact bear much resemblance, in character or numbers, to the conspiratorial army of cut-throats which government agents imagined,<sup>2</sup> they were troublesome as only conscientious people can be, and had powerful friends amongst the magistracy. But besides the magistrates, the government had other means of control. The Secretaries of State maintained a service of letter-writers to keep them informed of local news, and especially about the Dissenters and the behaviour of the magistrates.<sup>3</sup> (Once at

<sup>1</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1676-7, pp. 31, 33, 58 ; *C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fos. 79-80. Aldworth had been suspected of insufficient zeal against the Dissenters. Romsey's appointment was apparently prompted by the Recorder (B.R.L., Southwell MSS. i. sub 1 May, 1675). At about this time, Charles nominated the Town Clerk of York, contrary to the charters (A. Browning, *Thomas, Earl of Danby*, ii. 42).

<sup>2</sup> Government informants estimated in 1675 and 1677 that they numbered two-thirds of Bristol's population (*C.S.P.D.*, 1675-76, pp. 9-10 ; *ibid.*, 1677-78, p. 426). But there were only six congregations (Terrill, 213-14), and an estimate of the numbers in the diocese (not city) in the sixteenth-nineties put the proportion at about one in thirty-three (*C.S.P.D.*, 1693, p. 449).

<sup>3</sup> Their letters can be read in *C.S.P.D.* Some were customs-officials ; one was a prebendary of the cathedral. For the appointment of an agent, see *C.S.P.D.*, 1671-72, pp. 467, 483, 533.

least during these years government agents threatened the corporation with a *quo warranto* action for slackness in dealing with Dissent.<sup>1</sup> There was, in addition, a secret service of spies, about which we know much less. The militia was used quite frankly as a counter-revolutionary army, often called out to enforce the laws against the Dissenters, and even, on occasion, to influence the votes of the Council. It was controlled for most of this period (1672-88) by the Marquis of Worcester, later the first Duke of Beaufort, whose wealth and power made him the most considerable of all the Crown's agents. Under him was a group of Deputy-Lieutenants, whose numbers in the Restoration period were increased so as to include several country gentlemen, as counter-weights to the Bristol citizens in the lieutenancy.<sup>2</sup> Finally, there were the clergy, led by their Bishop, who, up to the middle of James II's reign, were strong supporters of the monarchy. Their quarrels with the corporation in the sixteen-seventies were primarily due to their being several degrees more zealous in their persecution of Dissenters in their consistory court than were some of the magistrates in their sessions. The Aldermen often had an eye to the depressing economic effects of sustained persecution.<sup>3</sup> It was therefore fortunate that Bishop Guy Carleton, who had been a fighting parson during the Civil War, was translated from Bristol to Chichester in 1678, at the height of a quarrel with the corporation,<sup>4</sup> in which his military temper might have done untold harm to the city in the critical days which followed.

The Plot- and Exclusion-controversies of 1678-81, made irreconcilable the animosities which had arisen between magistrates over this question of the persecution of Dissent, and fairly well-defined parties emerged in 1681. Neither they themselves nor anyone else used of them the new-fangled party names of "Whig" and "Tory," except at parliamentary election time, and the names would in fact have been inappropriate. Bristol had its Whigs, but they were the desperadoes of the political underworld, who worked with the rump of the Commonwealthsmen, meeting

<sup>1</sup> Terrill, 317-18. This was in 1675.

<sup>2</sup> In Elizabeth's reign there was one Deputy-Lieutenant; in 1702 there were fourteen (*C.S.P.D.*, 1702-3, p. 396). For the appointment of country gentlemen and the resentment it caused, see *P.R.O.*, *S.P.Dom.*, Charles II, lxiii., no. 58; *C.S.P.D.*, 1663-64, p. 300; and *C.C.P.*, 1659-75, p. 250. On the use of the militia against Dissenters, see Terrill, 104-6, 434-5.

<sup>3</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1672-3, pp. 332-3. The Bishop was reported to be aiming at having country gentlemen put into the Bristol commission of the peace (*B.R.L.*, Southwell MSS., i. *sub* 10 July, 1675).

<sup>4</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1677-8, pp. 352-3, 382-3, 425.

in secret clubs to debate affairs, to organize elections, or (as some said) to plot red ruin.<sup>1</sup> They ran parliamentary candidates in August, 1679, and March, 1681, but were defeated on both occasions. The handful of Councillors who belonged to their circle consisted of unimportant and isolated individuals,<sup>2</sup> for the tests imposed on members of the corporation were bound to exclude most of those likely to be Whig or republican. The municipal politicians who really mattered were the magistrates, and these were all loyalists and Anglicans, many of them, in fact, restored to office in the sixteen-sixties. As in the country generally, the parties in Bristol derived from a fission among the loyalists of the Restoration period rather than from the rise of a new group in opposition to them. The issue which divided them was the prospect of a Roman Catholic successor to Charles, which made it impossible to combine complete loyalty with wholehearted Anglicanism. Those who put first their devotion to the Crown supported the government without question; those to whom the safety of Anglicanism was all-important, were inclined to be critical. On other issues they were not opposed: critics and ultra-royalists often joined, for instance, in persecution of Dissent.

The leader of the critics in Bristol was old Sir John Knight, Alderman since 1662, Member of Parliament since 1660, a strong and even violent Anglican, now dubbed "the old ratt" because he was for the exclusion of James and the impeachment of Danby.<sup>3</sup> He had the support of the Recorder, Sir Robert Atkins, and of Lawford, Hicks, Crabb and Joseph Creswick among the Aldermen. A majority of Aldermen and Councillors generally followed his lead. The pro-government forces, relatively weak in numbers in 1681, were led by Alderman Sir Richard Hart, and included young John Knight, as mettlesome a politician as his namesake.<sup>4</sup> Their strength lay in the support of Whitehall and of the Lord Lieutenant, and, confident in that support, they awaited their chance.

The opportunity they were looking for came in March, 1681, when, after a closely contested election, the pro-government group

<sup>1</sup> There were two such clubs in Bristol; see *C.S.P.D.*, July–September, 1683, pp. 165–6, 250–1, 303. Many of their members were implicated in the Rye House Plot.

<sup>2</sup> Only four, and none of them officeholders; see *ibid.*, pp. 221, 277.

<sup>3</sup> G. Newcomb, *Annals of Bristol* (n.d.), 179. Roger North described him as "the most perverse, clamorous old Party Man in the whole City or Nation" (*Examen*, 1740, p. 253).

<sup>4</sup> These Knights may best be distinguished by reference to *Notes and Queries*, iii, 321–3. "Young John" was the first cousin once removed of "old Sir John." The former died in 1718: the latter in 1683.

beat old Sir John and the Recorder, carried one of the two Bristol seats, and sent their leader, Sir Richard Hart, to the Oxford Parliament. The defeated candidates petitioned, but parliament was dissolved after a single week. The anger of the opposition-groups and the mounting aggressiveness of the loyalists set Bristol in an uproar. In the absence of parliament, the treatment of the Dissenters became a principal issue of dispute. From 1680 onwards they were subjected in Bristol to a heavier persecution than ever.<sup>1</sup> More than a little of the strife, however, was due to personal rivalries and private tempers—as Atkins, the Recorder, said, “ever since they grew rich and full of trade and knighthood, too much sail and too little ballast, they have been miserably divided.”<sup>2</sup>

Their first quarrel after the parliamentary election proved to be the first step towards the revocation of the charters. It was over the filling of a vacancy on the bench.<sup>3</sup> The senior Councillor, Thomas Day, happened to be an anti-government man, whose votes in the parliamentary election had been cast for Atkins and Knight. Hart, who was Mayor at the time, delayed the summons of a meeting of the bench, out of pique. Therefore the Aldermen of the anti-government group, under the Recorder and old Sir John, after giving the Mayor due warning and a fair chance to summon a meeting himself, met of their own accord and unanimously elected Day. This was on 8 March. Their assembly was irregular, according to the charter of 1581 (though Atkins made out a case for it), and in September, Hart and the pro-government group met and elected another candidate.<sup>4</sup>

The dispute led directly to quarrels and litigation between the Aldermen, and hence to a dislocation of the whole administrative and judicial work of the city. In April, 1681, old Sir John Knight was presented at quarter-sessions for calling his enemies Papists.<sup>5</sup> In October he was indicted by the Mayor for conspiracy and riot in convoking the irregular assembly of March.<sup>6</sup> With him were accused the other Aldermen concerned, including the Recorder, whose own session of gaol-delivery was interrupted by the charge.

<sup>1</sup> Terrill, 420–94. The Quarter Sessions Books for the period, C.T. 04447 (2) and (3), support Terrill's account.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Seyer, *Memoirs*, ii. 520. His words also referred to the quarrels about precedence in the Council in previous years; cf. *Annals*, ii. 312 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1670–87, fo. 146 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 157. This election was later nullified in 1683.

<sup>5</sup> C.T. 04452 (1), Quarter Sessions, Book of Presentments, 41.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 48.

Convicted at assizes, the defendants appealed successfully to King's Bench. Meantime, Atkins had shaken the dust of Bristol from his feet, and for more than two years no gaol-deliveries were held.

Now that the guardians of the law were themselves at law with each other, the Crown intervened. In September, 1681, the court used its influence to obtain the election of a moderate as Mayor (Thomas Earle<sup>1</sup>), but he proved incapable of holding the balance, and soon fell under suspicion of lightening the persecution of the Dissenters.<sup>2</sup> His adjournment of general-sessions and his dissolution of quarter-sessions, whatever their cause, had the effect of completing the confusion in the city's judiciary which had begun with the prosecution of the Recorder. The prisons were scandalously overcrowded, and many prisoners escaped scot-free by the intermission of the courts. Once again, the Crown had cause to interfere. The officers responsible for the prisons were the Sheriffs, and one of them happened to be young John Knight, a leader of the loyalists. Summoned to the Privy Council, he succeeded in convincing them that the condition of the prisons was due to the breakdown of the city's judiciary, which in turn was caused by the unwillingness of the Mayor and many of the Aldermen to put the laws against Dissent into full force.<sup>3</sup> In June, 1682, he proposed to the government the issue of a *quo warranto* against the corporation.<sup>4</sup>

But the government was not yet ready for that. In the following September (1682) they took extraordinary precautions to have a loyalist (Thomas Eston) elected Mayor, and at the same time to keep their intervention secret. Aldermen Hart, Earle and Cann, together with the Bishop, all received confidential intimation of the King's choice from Secretary Jenkins; the Lord Chancellor, Nottingham, used his influence from Bath, and on

<sup>1</sup> He was the Councillor elected Alderman by Hart and his group. The Bishop was ordered to pay one of his rare visits to Bristol for the purpose of this election (*C.S.P.D.*, 1680-81, pp. 451-2), and the Lord Lieutenant was also there (*C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fo. 153 b).

<sup>2</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1682, pp. 100, 238-9.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 129, 134; *P.R.O.*, *P.C.Reg.*, 1680-83. pp. 478, 480.

<sup>4</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1682, pp. 239-40. The justification he adduced for a *quo warranto* was similar to that offered by the government later (*infra*, p. 49), except that he added two other points: (1) that Councillors had been elected by co-option, contrary to the charter of 1499, and (2), that Aldermen had not always been chosen from ex-Mayors, as was required (he said) by the charter of 1581. Knight also led the opposition to Atkins in the Council (*C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fos. 159 b-160 b).

13 September (two days before election-day) the Lord-Lieutenant gathered his militia-men for a muster "on purpose for an opportunity to promote a good election."<sup>1</sup> The result of this unprecedented pressure was the election of three ultras to the mayoralty and shrievalty, the two sheriffs being chosen out of turn.<sup>2</sup>

The elections of September, 1682, mark the beginning of the closing stages of Bristol's struggle for independence. It soon became clear that the government intended to get the corporation to surrender its charters by a vote of Common Council. The appointment of three ultras to the principal offices was the first step; the next, and more difficult, was to persuade a reluctant and, in parts, hostile majority. The attack on other towns by *quo warranto* proceedings would serve to intimidate some. Others might be won over by the arguments of the ultras. But we know nothing of all the private and informal negotiations between individuals and groups which explain the moves they made in the months that followed. We can read, in the Council minutes, the bare results of voting. We can find, in government archives, record of the policies both of Whitehall and of the Bristol ultras. About the attitude and motives of the party of resistance we have almost no evidence. But perhaps the most important thing we know is that although the ultras had the support, not only of Whitehall, but also of the Town-Clerk, the Recorder, the Bishop and the Lord-Lieutenant,<sup>3</sup> it took them over twelve months to secure a surrender, and even then it was not quite in the terms they had intended.

To begin with, the government proceeded warily, refusing to nominate a successor to Atkins, the Recorder.<sup>4</sup> But the Council unanimously elected Sir John Churchill, Attorney-General to the Duke of York, in December (1682).<sup>5</sup> At about the same time, on 19 December, the Mayor and a group of six ultras (including young Knight) wrote a letter to the government which is our first evidence that the plot was under way.<sup>6</sup> In it they suggested the dismissal by the Council itself of the four Aldermen responsible for

<sup>1</sup> C.S.P.D., 1682, p. 392. Cf. also *ibid.*, pp. 337, 373, 382; C.C.P., 1670-87, fo. 181 b.

<sup>2</sup> C.S.P.D., 1682, p. 392.

<sup>3</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, bundle 422, nos. 127 and 133.

<sup>4</sup> C.S.P.D., 1682, p. 582.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, loc. cit.; C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 171-171 b.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, bund no. 259, and bundle 422, no. 18. Cf. *Annals*, ii. 414.



the irregular assembly of March, 1681. Not only would the malcontents' voting power be reduced, but their prospects of succeeding to the principal offices of the corporation (which normally went by seniority) would be ruined.

Other counsels, however, prevailed, for the next move of which we have record is a decision by the government on 24 February, 1683, to proceed with a *quo warranto* as soon as Beaufort or young Knight should give the signal.<sup>1</sup> The ultras, or some of them, had decided to go all out for a surrender without waiting for a purge. We know from a letter of young Knight's of 6 March, 1683,<sup>2</sup> that he feared that a purge would result only in another round of squabbles, and that he was confident a vote of surrender would pass. The Mayor, Town-Clerk, Bishop and Beaufort supported him. He sent a detailed forecast of the voting with his letter to the Privy Council,<sup>3</sup> and followed it with a visit to London, during which he primed the Attorney-General on the grounds for the issue of a *quo warranto*.<sup>4</sup> What followed was clearly the effect of his prompting.

Immediately after his visit, the government issued a *quo warranto*, and under its threat invited the corporation to surrender.<sup>5</sup> In a closely fought vote on 29 March, the Council refused, by twenty-seven votes to twenty-two.<sup>6</sup> It was the defection of Sir Richard Hart, and the unpopularity of the Knight-Romsey-Beaufort group, which upset young Knight's calculations.<sup>7</sup> The vote made no difference, of course, to the government's policy, though it made the policy more difficult to administer. If the corporation refused to surrender "voluntarily," then it would

<sup>1</sup> C.S.P.D., January-June, 1683, p. 76. For Knight's influence with Beaufort, see C.T. Quarter Sessions Book, 1671-1704, *sub* 28 October, 1685.

<sup>2</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, bundle 422, nos. 127 and 133.

<sup>3</sup> This suggests that there had been preliminary discussions of some sort. His forecasts proved to be very close.

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, bundle 422, no. 133; P.R.O., S.P. Conway Papers, nos. 127 and 127 I.

<sup>5</sup> C.T. 04391, pp. 87-90; C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 187-188 b. Among the reasons given for the issue of a *quo warranto* were the election of more than forty-three members to the Council, and the omission to hold gaol-deliveries for two years. In March, 1683, there were fifty-three sworn Councillors (P.R.O., S.P.Dom., Charles II, bundle 422, no. 127), and there had been more than forty-three ever since the reorganization of 1660-61. Twice in 1681 the Council had debated whether or not to proceed with further elections, but in each case had done so (C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 148 b-149 b, 153 b, 154).

<sup>6</sup> C.C.P., 1670-87, fo. 174; C.S.P.D., January-June 1683, p. 150. Five Councillors whom Knight expected to favour the surrender, opposed it, and two of its supporters were absent.

<sup>7</sup> For Knight's unpopularity, see C.S.P.D., 1683-4, pp. 248-9.

have to be forced to surrender by a lawsuit, and in the Hilary Term of 1683 *quo warranto* proceedings against Bristol were instituted in the court of King's Bench, certain technical breaches of the terms of the charters being adduced as reason for the surrender of them all. The discovery, at the same time, of the Rye House Plot and the tracing of some of its ramifications to Bristol, made the task of defence no easier.<sup>1</sup>

But the party of resistance, in this crisis, hit on a plan to save what could be saved from the impending destruction. They would surrender the governing parts of their charters—i.e., the right of appointing their own officers—and ask for confirmation of the rest. The ultras disagreed, but were defeated in a vote of 19 June, and a petition to that effect was presented to the King in September.<sup>2</sup> In August, the Mayor and two of his friends had revived once more their original proposal of a purge, again without effect.<sup>3</sup> The government had decided not to aim at unconditional surrender.

Once more, on election-day, candidates secretly nominated by the Crown were raised to the great offices of the city.<sup>4</sup> But the new Mayor died before he could be sworn, and the King openly recommended his successor.<sup>5</sup> After this unforeseen delay, the King let it be known, on 25 October, that he would be satisfied with the limited surrender suggested in the petition of the previous month, and promised that if that were done, the *quo warranto* proceedings would be dropped.<sup>6</sup> On these terms, the Council at a meeting of 9 November, from which over half the members were absent, unanimously surrendered.<sup>7</sup> In the following month, as though to dramatize the tragedy, died old Sir John Knight, the strongest leader of resistance.

After that fatal meeting of 9 November, 1683, the Common Council, being in effect dissolved, met no more until June, 1684. Before surrendering their powers, they had delegated to a small

<sup>1</sup> See *C.S.P.D.*, 1683 and 1683-4, *passim*.

<sup>2</sup> *C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fo. 178; *C.S.P.D.*, July-September, 1683, p. 418.

<sup>3</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, July-September, 1683, pp. 277-8.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 347, 351, 372-3, 375-6, 397-8; *C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fos. 184-5.

<sup>5</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1683-4, p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> *C.C.P.*, 1670-87, fos. 187-8.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 186; *C.S.P.D.*, July-September, 1683, p. 418. Later, the government recommended this type of modified surrender to other corporations, and adduced Bristol's example (*C.S.P.D.*, 1683-4, pp. 338, 363). Its value was that it quietened fears about the fate of corporate property.

committee the management of negotiations for a new charter.<sup>1</sup> There were many matters—always excepting appointments—on which the government was willing to negotiate, and the committee put forward proposals designed to clear away certain difficulties and dubieties which had given trouble in the past. They proposed, like their predecessors of the Restoration period, a fine of £500 on recusants to office; they suggested a reduction in the functions of the Recorder so as to make his long absences from the city less troublesome to its government; and they wanted an increase in the numbers of the Aldermen and increased importance for the Senior Alderman. They also sent a list of fairs and markets which they would like to be authorized, but did not press the demand for horse-fairs, as being “beneath the grandieurr of Bristol.”<sup>2</sup> The government, advised by Beaufort as well as by its legal officials, was accommodating, and some Councillors thought that it might have withdrawn its claims over the appointment of the Town-Clerk, had not Romsey been so anxious to put himself beyond the control of the corporation.<sup>3</sup> Romsey himself was in London throughout most of the winter of 1683–84, conducting the negotiations, and dealing in the government offices with ubiquitous demands for bribes and fees.<sup>4</sup> He was shown a draft of the new charter, and was allowed to comment on it.<sup>5</sup> He inserted the qualifications of his own office, and those of the Coroners. It is remarkable that at no time in the negotiations, so far as we know, was there any question of a re-definition of the parliamentary franchise, though control of parliamentary elections was one of the principal aims of this and similar re-organizations.<sup>6</sup>

But when the charter was issued in June, 1684, it was clear that it gave to the Crown all the control over the corporation that despotism could wish for. Most of the existing officers of the city were re-appointed, but one Alderman and nineteen Councillors were dismissed so as to reduce the Council to its proper total of forty-three. The remainder had to take the oaths before a special commission (which included Beaufort), and all officers appointed

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1670–87, fo. 183.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 195. These demands are given in *ibid.*, fos. 187–8, 192, 194–6. The government wanted customs-officials to be put on the commission of the peace; the Bishop wanted himself added (C.S.P.D., 1683–4, pp. 85, 302).

<sup>3</sup> C.S.P.D., 1683–4, p. 259.

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1670–87, fo. 191 b.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, fos. 194–5.

<sup>6</sup> In the case of Leicester, the franchise was altered (R. W. Greaves, *The Corporation of Leicester*, 1689–1835, p. 8).

in the future were to be subject to dismissal by the Privy Council. Moreover, in the case of certain officers (Recorder, Town-Clerk, Steward and Coroners) royal approval had in future to be obtained before election was made. These became, in effect, royal rather than municipal officers. Ordinances of the Council were to be invalid after one year, unless confirmed by the Crown.

Some of the requests made by the corporation's committee were included in the finished version—the fine on recusants (with a further sanction of imprisonment), and precise provision for filling vacancies caused by death or refusal of office. The Mayor was enabled to take his oaths before his immediate predecessor, or the Recorder, or the Senior Alderman.<sup>1</sup> And the corporation, having asked for markets and fairs, was given, despite its second thoughts about its “grandieurr,” three additional markets and eight additional fairs.<sup>2</sup>

Certain other changes call for comment. The opening phrases of the charter giving full corporate rights to the city and county are curious, for strictly speaking a clause of incorporation was necessary only in cases where *quo warranto* proceedings had resulted in a verdict for the Crown, and the corporation thereby dissolved. Bristol may well have thought it best to have the clause added, for safety's sake. An increase of power for the Mayor (whose vote was now necessary to validate ordinances, penalties and the election of Aldermen), and for the Town-Clerk (who now became a Councillor<sup>3</sup>) was presumably due to a calculation that this would serve the Crown's interest. So also, in all probability, was the new definition of the qualifications of the Alderman and Sheriff. The former had now to be resident, but did not have to be an ex-Mayor or a senior Councillor<sup>4</sup>; the latter had to be a burgess, but not necessarily a Councillor. The new quorum for quarter-sessions (Mayor or Recorder or Senior Alderman) was perhaps designed to prevent a recurrence of the breakdown of sessions in 1681–82, and to make more efficient the persecution of Dissenters and the control of malcontents.

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1673 the Mayor took his oaths before the immediately preceding Mayor. After the Test Act of that year, he took them before the Recorder.

<sup>2</sup> Such additional powers were usual in the series of new charters issued at this time; cf. *E.H.R.*, xlv. 232.

<sup>3</sup> Strictly speaking, the existing Town-Clerk was made a Councillor, and membership of the Council was made permissible for his successors. No Town-Clerk could become an Alderman or Sheriff during his term of office.

<sup>4</sup> The Alderman had still to take his oaths before the Mayor and Recorder, as under the charter of 1499, although the corporation had hoped that the Recorder's presence would not be necessary.

In the same month as the charter was issued (June, 1684) the militia descended on the Whigs and the disaffected in the city, to search their houses for arms.<sup>1</sup> On 10 July, Beaufort's son brought the charter, the militia's artillery was mustered, the Councillors took their oaths before the commissioners, and the Dissenters huddled in their hiding-places to keep a day of prayer.<sup>2</sup> From that moment until the eleventh hour of James II's reign, in November, 1688, Bristol was governed under the terms of this new constitution, mainly by Beaufort and his agents. The charter, despite its occasional concessions to local feeling, represented so complete a break with tradition that its prospects of success were small. Nothing could obscure the fact that it was the product of a political quarrel, and had no authority beyond the superficial sanction of a dubious use of prerogative, and the temporary sanction of a party victory. It failed to produce results which answered the hopes of its promulgators. The Council passed not a single ordinance under the régime of this charter; the city sank into debt, and even the new markets and fairs brought little else than disputes with the burgesses of Tewkesbury.<sup>3</sup> Later, when the charter became the vehicle of James II's policy of Romanization, the whole system became unworkable. The King ordered dismissal after dismissal,<sup>4</sup> but the Council could not easily find burgesses for the vacancies, and for most of his reign its numbers fell below the required total of forty-three. James had eventually to nominate Councillors by Privy Council warrant, a procedure which even the charter did not justify. The last absurdity was reached in 1688 when James, by this means, attempted to run the city's government with Whigs and Dissenters and men who had risen against him in Monmouth's rebellion three years before.

There was no mistaking the coldness of the reception which the new charter received on its arrival in July, 1684.<sup>5</sup> Very soon young Knight, its author, was asking the King's permission to resign from the Council, whether out of annoyance at not being suitably rewarded, or out of fear of his unpopularity in Bristol, it

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. B. and G.*, ii (1877-8), pp. 104-17.

<sup>2</sup> C.C.P., 1670-87, fo. 198; Terrill, 489. Two Councillors did not take the oaths before the commissioners, but gave in on threat of a fine (C.T. 04391, p. 113; C.C.P., 1670-87, fo. 199 b).

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 16, 220 b, 252, 252 b.

<sup>4</sup> As he did in other towns; cf. P.R.O., P. C. Reg., 1687-8, pp. 569-71, 639-40, 732-3.

<sup>5</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1684-5, pp. 240-1.

is impossible to say.<sup>1</sup> Apart from this, the difficulties of working the new constitution did not fully appear for a while. Bristol returned two loyalists to James II's parliament of 1685-86, and survived the Monmouth affair with some credit.<sup>2</sup> In September, 1685, the corporation's loyalty was rewarded by Jeffreys' famous tirade against them at the assizes, during which he put the Mayor in the dock, and accused him and the Aldermen of being kidnappers.<sup>3</sup> But in November, obedient to Beaufort's behest, the corporation elected Roger North as Recorder.<sup>4</sup>

Their refusal, at about the same time, to accept Beaufort's candidate at a parliamentary bye-election, and their election in his stead of Sir Richard Hart (a Tory, but no courtier and no friend of Beaufort's) was the first sign of any resistance.<sup>5</sup> Criticism became open in the following winter, 1685-86, when Beaufort's regiments raised during Monmouth's rebellion were kept quartered in Bristol at the city's expense. "Ill minded men" began to suggest "Arbitrary power and other Jealousies into the heads of the people."<sup>6</sup> All the corporation's protests and demands for redress were unavailing.<sup>7</sup>

In June, 1686, two of the leading loyalists of Bristol broke openly with the King. Sir Richard Hart was dismissed from the Council, by government orders,<sup>8</sup> and young Knight was arrested for disturbing a Roman Catholic service on St. Michael's Hill.<sup>9</sup> As a result of their examination of Knight and of various members

<sup>1</sup> He asked for the Governorship of the Leeward Islands (B.R.L., Southwell MSS., ii. *sub* July, 1684; P.R.O., P. C. Reg., 1683-5, p. 266). It should be added that his distrust of Roman Catholicism may have had something to do with his resignation. He rejoined the Council in 1688, and was M.P., 1689-95.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals*, ii. 427, 437 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> R. North, *Lives of the Norths* (ed. Jessop), i. 284-5.

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 227, 234 b, 236 b. Royal approval of the election followed, and cost eight gns. (*ibid.*, fos. 238 b-239). Fourteen Councillors were absent, of whom eight were dismissed in January 1688.

<sup>5</sup> C. T. Quarter Sessions Book, 1672-81, *sub* 17 November 1685. Beaufort recommended Romsey.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, *sub* 22 March 1686.

<sup>7</sup> C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 225 b, 226, 229 b. For the correspondence, see C.T. Quarter Sessions Book, 1672-81, *passim*. During this winter the corporation elected eleven Quakers to the Council in order to extract fines from them on their refusing the oaths. From this money, the expenses of the charter were paid (C.C.P., 1670-87, fos. 238 b, 220 b-259, esp. fo. 238 b; *Annals*, ii. 431).

<sup>8</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1685-7, p. 287.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 283; C.T. Quarter Sessions Book, 1681-1704, *sub* 3 May 1686; N. Luttrell, *Brief Historical Relation* (1857), i. 389.

of the corporation, the Privy Council ordered a "commission of association" to be issued to a number of gentlemen of the country around Bristol who were to join with the Aldermen in the administration of justice in the city.<sup>1</sup> Their appointment was an admission that the re-organization of 1684 had failed.

In April of the following year (1687) the publication of the first Declaration of Indulgence marked the beginning of that policy of reliance on Catholics and Dissenters which brought about James's fall. In Bristol, the Bishop, Jonathan Trelawney, and his clergy refused to sign an address in favour of the policy,<sup>2</sup> and perhaps James was able to judge for himself of the city's feelings when he paid it a visit in August, 1687.<sup>3</sup> In January and February, 1688, he dismissed the Mayor, six of the Aldermen, both Sheriffs, the Town-Clerk and eighteen Councillors.<sup>4</sup> In their place he appointed twenty-eight Dissenters,<sup>5</sup> who included, as Town-Clerk, Nathaniel Wade, a Whig who had been imprisoned for his part in Monmouth's rebellion, and Scrope, the son of a regicide. At the same time, three new Deputy-Lieutenants were appointed—one of them a customs-official and government agent.<sup>6</sup>

All this was in preparation for the second Declaration of Indulgence of April, 1688, and for the parliament which James intended to summon (if it could be packed) in order to convert the Declaration into a statute. Wade reported after the purge that he was certain to be able to carry one seat in Bristol.<sup>7</sup> To make more certain, the King in March dismissed one Alderman and five Councillors, and by the same irregular procedure as in January, nominated their successors, again from among the Dissenters.<sup>8</sup> But the Dissenters in Bristol, as elsewhere, were far from unanimous in their support of James's policy of toleration, and by a small majority the Council decided against sending an address of

<sup>1</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1685-7, pp. 283, 345.

<sup>2</sup> *D.N.B.*, *sub* Jonathan Trelawney.

<sup>3</sup> Bristol's hospitality, however, gave the Queen indigestion (*H.M.C.*, Beaufort, 90).

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1687-8, p. 570; C.C.P., 1687-1702, fos. 4b-5.

<sup>5</sup> The King gave them a dispensation from taking the oaths.

<sup>6</sup> (ed.) Sir G. Duckett, *Penal Laws and the Test Act*, 1687-8, p. 443.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, loc. cit. Only two of the Deputy-Lieutenants of Bristol were willing to stand for Parliament on James's terms (*ibid.*, 263).

<sup>8</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1687-8, p. 639; C.C.P., 1687-1702, fo. 9.

thanks for the second Declaration.<sup>1</sup> A few days later, on 29 April, arrived a *mandamus* appointing sixty-five new freemen, who were to be admitted without oaths, with a view to the parliamentary elections. The order was not read until October,<sup>2</sup> and the elections never held.

After the trial of the seven Bishops in June, 1688, James was no longer secure on his throne. Jonathan Trelawney was among the seven, and their acquittal was celebrated in Bristol by bonfires.<sup>3</sup> Right up to September, the King continued to pursue his hopes of controlling the corporations: in that month two more members of the Bristol body were dismissed.<sup>4</sup> But at the thirteenth hour, as it were, with William of Orange's invasion at hand, James by a proclamation of 17 October, withdrew the Bristol charter of 1684, and with it most of the others issued since 1679.<sup>5</sup> The old order was restored, and on 23 October the members of the Council of 1683 met and chose their officers.<sup>6</sup>

Within less than a month England was in the throes of the invasion, and the Council did not meet again (except to petition for a free parliament on 26 November) until August, 1689.<sup>7</sup> The revolution which removed James and brought in William of Orange was bloodless in Bristol, as in the country generally. Nathaniel Wade, the displaced Town-Clerk, is said to have remained in bed, on the pretence of illness, until the new King was firm on the throne.<sup>8</sup> Beaufort made a half-hearted attempt to secure Bristol for James, but fled at the approach of Shrewsbury's troops, who occupied the city in the name of the Prince of Orange.<sup>9</sup>

Slowly and brokenly, the corporate life of the city, under its old charters, was resumed. The members of the corporation were

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1687-1702, fo. 11. Seven of the new Councillors voted in the majority.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 21; *Annals*, ii. 449 (where the number is wrongly given as sixty-nine).

<sup>3</sup> *D.N.B.*, sub Jonathan Trelawney.

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1687-8, p. 732; C.C.P., 1687-1702, fos. 18 b-19.

<sup>5</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1687-8, pp. 749-51 (printed in R. Steele, *Tudor and Stuart Proclamations*, 1485-1714, i. 470).

<sup>6</sup> C.C.P., 1687-1702, fo. 22. The proclamation ordered the corporations to proceed to elections immediately, without waiting for the customary election-day.

<sup>7</sup> The Secretary of State, Shrewsbury, protested against this (*C.S.P.D.*, 1689-90, p. 159).

<sup>8</sup> *B.R.L.*, Braik. Coll. MSS., v. 185.

<sup>9</sup> *D.N.B.*, sub Henry Somerset, first Duke of Beaufort.



Tory, and some of them Jacobite,<sup>1</sup> and immediate quarrels about politics and place and precedence arose. In 1690 the Council settled the problem of precedence by deciding that seniority should be calculated from the date of election, irrespective of the charter under which the officer served.<sup>2</sup> But more important issues remained. Until Anne's charter of 1710, there was still some doubt about the validity of the instrument of 1684.<sup>3</sup> James' proclamation of 17 October, 1688, had been quite explicit: all charters (like Bristol's), whose surrender had not been enrolled, were restored, and the deed of surrender was to be cancelled and returned. But about this there were two difficulties. Firstly, the proclamation had also promised a formal and free confirmation of all the old charters to all corporations which asked for it, but James had abdicated before this undertaking could be kept, and the new government's plan to pass a general confirmation by statute in 1689 was, after debates in both Houses, abandoned at the prorogation of parliament.<sup>4</sup> And secondly, although one of the first acts of the restored corporation was to instruct the Town-Clerk to procure the return of the cancelled surrender, it did not arrive until 1708.<sup>5</sup>

The corporation seems to have acted on the assumption that the instrument of 1684 was no longer valid.<sup>6</sup> In the sixteennineties, for instance, it went to some trouble and expense to have its Mayors sworn in by the Recorder (sometimes in London),<sup>7</sup> although by the charter of 1684 he could have been sworn by the immediately preceding Mayor or the senior Alderman. And in a rather more vital matter—refusal of office—it never, in the years immediately after 1688, levied the fine of £500 fixed in 1684.

This problem of recusancy became one of the greatest difficulty in the course of the years 1689–1710, and indeed throughout the

<sup>1</sup> Young Knight, Sir Richard Hart and Sir William Clutterbuck were the most prominent. They were arrested in 1696 on suspicion of complicity in Fenwick's plot (*Annals*, ii. 483).

<sup>2</sup> C.C.P., 1687–1702, fo. 42.

<sup>3</sup> For similar doubts elsewhere, see S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government*, ii. 269–70.

<sup>4</sup> W. Cobbett, *Parliamentary History*, v. 508–16; H. C. Foxcroft, *Life and Letters of Sir G. Savile, First Marquess of Halifax*, ii. 112; *American Hist. Rev.*, xlii. 670–9; S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, ii. 269 n. 2. The Law Lords were of opinion that the surrenders were *ultra vires*.

<sup>5</sup> C.C.P., 1687–1702, fo. 24 b; C.T. 04391, pp. 89–90.

<sup>6</sup> The markets and fairs gained in 1684 were abandoned (*Annals*, ii. 438).

<sup>7</sup> C.C.P., 1687–1702, fos. 74 b, 144, 180, 180 b, 198 b; *ibid.*, 1702–22, pp. 31–2, 89, 118, 151.

remaining history of the corporation before 1835. James II's interventions had debased still further the value of corporate offices, which had been falling ever since the party feuds of the sixteen-forties. Many of the older members resigned after 1689, or simply ceased to attend, and younger burgesses proved shy of the honour. The financial difficulties of the corporation in the sixteen-nineties made office less attractive than ever. And a glaring error of judgement on the part of the Council at the beginning of this period had an unfortunate effect. In 1689 they elected to the Council John Whiting, a Dissenter incapable of taking the oaths, simply in order to exact a fine from him.<sup>1</sup> Whiting was imprisoned on his refusal to take the oaths, but successfully sued for false imprisonment the two Aldermen who committed him.<sup>2</sup> Recruitment of Councillors became still more difficult after the Abjuration Act of 1702 forced office-holders to swear allegiance to Anne as the "lawful and rightful" sovereign, and to abjure the Pretender and his line for ever.<sup>3</sup>

By 1704 nine Councillors-elect had refused oaths on these terms,<sup>4</sup> and in that year a committee reported in favour of heavier fines, which were fixed at £200 for Councillors-elect, and £300 for Sheriffs-elect.<sup>5</sup> This sufficed to fill most of the vacancies, but in 1706 and 1707 Richard Loversedge and Thomas Hungerford, elected Councillors, refused the oaths.<sup>6</sup> Counsel's opinion was taken, but both recusants held their ground despite threats of prosecution. Clearly the Council was anxious to imprison them, but uncertain of its right to do so.<sup>7</sup> In August, 1708, a committee was appointed which examined the charters to see what powers of coercion the corporation possessed.<sup>8</sup> It took the view that the charter of 1684 was null and void, for it recommended application for a charter of confirmation, with an explanatory clause making more precise the procedure of election, and more certain the powers of punishing recusants.

A petition to this effect was drawn up and forwarded to the Secretary of State.<sup>9</sup> The corporation also asked that the definition

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1687-1702, fo. 38.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 63.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Anne, c. 16.

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1702-22, *passim*.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 57. This was re-enacted in 1708 (*ibid.*, 161-2).

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 107, 143.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 143-4, 163.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 173, 177.

<sup>9</sup> C.C.P., 1702-22, pp. 182, 224; P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1710-12, pp. 10-11.

of the quorum in quarter-sessions and the rules for the swearing-in of Aldermen might be so altered as to render unnecessary the presence of the Recorder. And, finally, that they might be given freedom to change the times and sites of their markets, which had caused some inconvenience. This was in November, 1708. In April, 1710, the Attorney-General reported in favour of the petition.<sup>1</sup> It is remarkable that while the corporation's requests show that they considered the charter of 1684 invalid, the Attorney-General's report showed that he regarded its nullification as by no means certain.<sup>2</sup> He spoke of it as the current source of regulations for elections. Moreover, the charter of 1710 which was issued a few months later recognized that, at any rate, there were doubts about the status of Charles II's charter, for Anne specifically renounced the power it gave of dismissing officers and of adjudging ordinances, and pardoned all offences against its provisions. Nowhere in the charter of 1710 was there mention of the proclamation by which James had annulled his brother's charter, and Anne ended her charter by confirming all previous grants without exception, subject to the alterations she had made.

But for the moment what mattered in 1710 was that the corporation gained a definition and confirmation of all their established rights, and a specific renunciation by the Crown of the special powers which Charles II and James II had exercised under the instrument of 1684. The existing officers were confirmed in office. Moreover, the corporation won all their demands of the petition of 1708—the new regulations for the Alderman's oath, for the quorum at quarter-sessions, and for markets. As for recusants, the new charter did not fix the fines, but ordered the existing vacancies to be filled at a special meeting to be held before 15 September following, and empowered the Council "without delay" to make laws enforcing penalties. But nothing precise was laid down about the method of electing Councillors.

The relation between this charter and that of 1684 is instructive. Anne's charter followed the general pattern of Charles's, but diverged at certain points besides those which have been mentioned. The clauses of incorporation were not so ample, and the specific permission to acquire lands and goods was omitted. It was imprecise, compared with that of 1684, and its vagueness

<sup>1</sup> *Deputy Keeper's Report*, xxx., App., p. 484. See this also for the issue of the charter.

<sup>2</sup> This view accords with that of the law officers of the Crown in 1692, when, in a matter of Admiralty business, they assumed the validity of the charter of 1684 (P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1690-2, pp. 454-5).

about the methods of filling vacancies later caused a little trouble.<sup>1</sup> The power of the Council to dismiss any of its servants was secured by the clause appointing them "during good behaviour," and not for life. The qualifications of Recorder, Town-Clerk, Steward and Alderman were left unchanged from 1684.

The Council had obtained a clarification of their status. They now used the charter principally for the filling of vacancies. On 14 August, 1710 (five days after the charter had been received), they fixed fines for recusants, and elected Hungerford and Loversedge and six others to the Council.<sup>2</sup> The six others accepted, but Hungerford and Loversedge stood out. The corporation prosecuted them in 1710-12, but failed to secure a conviction.<sup>3</sup> A second protracted action brought the defeat of Hungerford, who in 1717 paid his fine and £40 costs, but Loversedge was not brought to book till four years later.<sup>4</sup>

The charter of 1710 had one important effect—the corporation thereafter regarded Charles II's charter of 1684 as valid except for those of its provisions which were altered in 1710. A translation of the governing charters was published in 1738 as a result of a dispute about the town-dues, and in it the instruments of 1684 and 1710 appeared alongside each other as of equal authority.<sup>5</sup> Anne's charter, however, did not prove in the long run a permanent cure for the old trouble of recusancy of office. There was little difficulty of this sort in the earlier part of the century, but after 1790 recurrent refusals of burgesses to enter the Council, and of Councillors to bear office, reduced the prestige of the corporation to vanishing-point, and no amount of fining did any good.<sup>6</sup> The charter was effective in normal times, and throughout most of the eighteenth

<sup>1</sup> *Infra*, p. 61. The method of summoning a meeting on the death of a Mayor, left vague in the charter of 1710, was made precise by an ordinance of Council (C.C.P., 1702-22, pp. 229-36).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 264, 299; A.B., lxxvi. 63.

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1702-22, pp. 394, 458-9, 554, 582, 586-7; A.B., lxxxi. 50; *ibid.*, lxxxii. 58; *ibid.*, lxxxvi. 50, 58.

<sup>5</sup> *Bristol, The City Charters*. . . (F. Farley, Bristol, 1736); *Annals*, iii. 194-5. The corporation's lawyers always quoted both charters whenever disputes arose after 1710; e.g., M. Dodson, *The Life of Sir Michael Foster* . . . (1811), pp. 4-12; C.C.P., 1772-82, p. 214; *ibid.*, 1791-6, p. 448. In 1718 the Mayor was said to keep "the two Charters" at his home (*ibid.*, 1702-22, p. 501).

<sup>6</sup> There were six cases of burgesses refusing to be Councillors in 1710-50; five cases in 1750-90; eleven in 1794-8, and forty-six in 1801-32 (including twenty in 1810-12). No less than twenty Councillors refused the mayoralty in 1789-1820 (C.C.P., *passim*).

century, but after 1790 times had changed, the city was deeply divided by disputes over trade-dues, and the corporation was an isolated and unpopular body. The burgesses were not anxious for the "mock dignity and real odium of a Bristol Corporator,"<sup>1</sup> and Councillors, for their part, avoided as much as they could the expenses and trials of office.<sup>2</sup> Nothing which the Council did either to make office more attractive by higher salaries, or to render refusal more unattractive by higher fines, could eradicate the trouble.<sup>3</sup>

One of the most curious of these difficulties occurred in February, 1792, when a Councillor declined to serve as Alderman after proper election.<sup>4</sup> This had never happened before, and the Town-Clerk in June asked for the Recorder's opinion. The Town-Clerk pointed out that the charters of 1684 and 1710 gave the Court of Aldermen the duty of filling vacancies on the bench caused by death or removal, but said nothing in that context about dismissal. But, he continued, there was a passage in the charter of 1684 which provided that if Mayor, Alderman, Sheriff or Councillor should refuse office, the Council was to impose fines and elect a successor. The Recorder replied that the inclusion of Aldermen in this list was obviously a mistake, but that since it was explicit, and not contrary to any other charter, it must stand. In this case, therefore, and in all similar cases, election to fill the vacancy on the bench must be not by the Aldermen, but by the whole of the Council. This was done, the Council obligingly electing the nominee of the Aldermen. There is no record of any fine being levied on the original recusant. The Council took pains to purchase an exemplification of the charter of 1684 after this incident, the original having disappeared sometime in the early eighteenth century.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government*, iii. 469 n. 4 from [J. B. Kington], *Letters on the Port and Trade of Bristol*.

<sup>2</sup> S. and B. Webb, *op. cit.*, iii. 468 n. 3.

<sup>3</sup> The Mayor's salary was raised by three successive increments from £1,000 in 1783 to £2,500 in 1813. The fine on burgesses refusing to become Councillors was in the same period raised to £300 (C.C.P., 1791-6, pp. 435-6), and in 1813 there was a proposal to obtain a supplementary charter raising fines to £2,000 (*ibid.*, 1809-14, p. 368).

<sup>4</sup> For this case, see C.C.P., 1791-6, pp. 166-9, 172-82. The Councillor was Jeremy Baker.

<sup>5</sup> C.T. 01247; issued 7 July 1793. It was paid for on 29 September 1792 (C.T. Cash Book, 1790-4, p. 73). A charter was reported lost or mislaid in 1721 (C.C.P., 1702-22, p. 605).

## (IV) MISCELLANEA

## (a) THE PARDONS OF 1509 AND 1644

*(Numbers I and XXII)*

Two different types of royal pardon are represented by these charters. The first was one of a series of general pardons issued by almost all the sovereigns of modern England before 1688; the second derived from the special circumstances of the Civil War, and was by no means so comprehensive.

The "free and general" pardon which Bristol obtained on 16 May, 1509, was one of those granted as a result of a proclamation of 23 April, by which Henry VIII, on the day after his accession to the throne, pardoned (with certain exceptions) all offences and all offenders.<sup>1</sup> The most notable persons excepted were the unpopular ministers of his father, Empson and Dudley (later executed); the only unremitted offence was debt. The grant was free, not in the sense of costing nothing, but because it was not dependent on the performance of conditions.<sup>2</sup>

The proclamation authorized a special procedure for the issue of the pardons, by which Chancery was to make them out for all proper applicants without obtaining the King's consent in each case.<sup>3</sup> The result was that a host of individuals and corporations hastened to purchase their pardons, whether or not they were conscious of having committed any offence. For Bristol alone, pardons were issued to thirty-four individuals, to the abbey of St. Augustine, and to Gaunt's Hospital, as well as to the town itself.<sup>4</sup>

This appears to be the last occasion on which a general pardon was issued by means of letters patent. Subsequent pardons of this type (not all of them by any means so wide as that of 1509) were issued by every sovereign before 1688, except Mary and Charles I, but usually in the form of statutes.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *L. and P.*, i (pt. 1), pp. 7-8.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Coke, *Institutes* (1669), pt. 3, pp. 233-4.

<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless in the Patent Rolls the grants are often described as issued *per ipsum Regem*.

<sup>4</sup> *L. and P.*, i (pt. 1), p. 203 *et seq.*

<sup>5</sup> Cf. 5 Henry VIII, c. 8; 1 Edward VI, c. 15; 5 Elizabeth, c. 30; 13 Elizabeth, c. 28; 3 James I, c. 27; 12 Charles II, c. 11. James II, by proclamation, issued two and promised a third (R. Steele, *Tudor and Stuart Proclamations*, i. 463, 469, 472). Henry VII's was issued too late to become effective before his death (*ibid.*, i. 6). Charles I's failure to issue one was a subject of complaint in 1641 (S. R. Gardiner, *Constitutional Documents of the Puritan Revolution*, 1625-60, p. 166).

The corporation obtained a pardon in 1509 merely *pro forma*; in 1643-44 it had excellent reasons to plead for forgiveness. Throughout the first twelve months of the Civil War it had adhered to the cause of the King's enemies; now, on 26 July, 1643, it had fallen to Rupert. In such circumstances, the King would usually (though not invariably) issue a special pardon by letters patent. The object was, on the King's part, to gain supporters, to regularize relations between himself and ex-rebels, and to obtain money; on the part of the towns, to recover in full security their chartered liberties, to restore town-life to something like normal (e.g., by releasing political prisoners), and to protect themselves against heavy fines for disloyalty. In October, 1643, for instance, a proclamation announced that pardons would be granted to five cities and towns of the West Country recently captured by the forces of the King—Exeter, Barnstaple, Bideford, Dartmouth and Appledore.<sup>1</sup> Bristol's pardon was of the same type, but was issued only after delay and prolonged negotiation. Exeter and the rest were promised their pardons some six weeks after their surrender; Bristol was left in doubt for seven months. Her charters were meanwhile guaranteed by one of the articles of surrender.<sup>2</sup>

There were several reasons for the delay. To begin with, the Crown was anxious to wring as much as it could from the corporation in "voluntary contributions" before it was issued. For this reason, as much as for reasons of strategy, the royalist government was elated by the capture of the second port of the realm—the greatest single triumph of the campaign of 1643. Rumours flew to Oxford of hoards of gold discovered in the castle, and of heavy fines on the city.<sup>3</sup> The hoards were imaginary, but the fines real enough. The corporation, its resources already strained by the taxation of the parliamentary army, is said to have paid immediately the sum of £1,400 to save the city from further pillage.<sup>4</sup> On 28 July, they voted £10,000 to the King,

<sup>1</sup> (ed.) W. H. Black, *Docquets of Letters Patent* . . . , 1642-6 (1837), pp. 93-4.

<sup>2</sup> They are to be found in C.C.P., 1642-9, pp. 33-4. The corporation is said to have drawn up the articles themselves (W. Prynne and C. Walker, *A True and Full Relation of the Prosecution* . . . of N. Fiennes, 1644, App. p. 2).

<sup>3</sup> E. Warburton, *Memoirs of Prince Rupert and the Cavaliers*, ii. 265-6.

<sup>4</sup> [R. Robinson], *Sieges of Bristol during the Civil War* (1868), p. 33. I can find no authority in C.C.P. or A.B. for this statement. It may derive from confusion with the £1,300 which the city paid as arrears of customs-dues (J. Ashburnham, *Narrative*, 1830, p. xiii).

and a little later the same amount to Prince Rupert—both sums being raised by rates and loans.<sup>1</sup> All this was in addition to very heavy and continuous contributions for the maintenance of the garrison. Moreover, a quarrel between Rupert and the local Lord Lieutenant (the Marquis of Hertford) postponed the settlement of Bristol's affairs. The King visited the city in early August and composed the dispute, making Rupert Governor, and appointing as Lieutenant-Governor a nominee of Hertford's (Hopton).<sup>2</sup> No doubt the corporation took the opportunity of pleading for a pardon on the King's visit, but we have no certain knowledge of what took place. We know that the Council at this time were concerned at the number of political prisoners in the city gaols.<sup>3</sup> According to a news-letter report, the King refused to give an audience to the Mayor and Council, because of his displeasure that they had not succeeded in saving the lives of the two royalists executed for their part in a royalist plot in the previous May.<sup>4</sup> This again may have delayed the grant of the pardon.

But by early December, 1643, its negotiation had been begun and a deputation was appointed to go to Oxford to hasten its issue.<sup>5</sup> One of the deputies—Thomas Colston—fell ill, and it was January, 1644, before he and his companion, William Fitzherbert, set off from Bristol.<sup>6</sup> At Oxford their success was immediate, and on 24 February the pardon was issued.<sup>7</sup> In form, it followed the pattern usual at this time—all treason was forgiven, but not offences against royal revenue, or offences entered in the courts of record at Westminster. The pardon also excluded from its benefits eighteen individuals, who were parliamentarians concerned in the trial of the royalist plotters of 1643. Sixteen of these were members of the Council of War which conducted the trial (including its president, Nathaniel Fiennes);

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1642-9, pp. 33, 41; Ashburnham, *op. cit.*, xiv, xxviii, xxix, xxxi. The corporation did not pay off the debts so incurred until October 1644 (A.B., xxi. 34).

<sup>2</sup> Clarendon, *History of the Rebellion* (1720), ii (pt. 1), pp. 306-9.

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1642-9, p. 35.

<sup>4</sup> *Annals*, ii. 183-4.

<sup>5</sup> C.C.P., 1642-9, p. 45.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 45, 48.

<sup>7</sup> It cost £150 (apart from the usual gifts), and this sum was slowly recovered by means of a rate in the following summer. See C.C.P., 1642-9, pp. 53, 56-7, 61; A.B., xxi. 21, 24. The statement in *Deposition Books of Bristol*, i. 13 (Bristol Record Soc., vol. vi) that Rupert "signed" a pardon immediately on receipt of his £10,000 must be based on a misunderstanding.



the others were an advocate, Clement Walker, and the Provost-Marshall,—Herbert.<sup>1</sup> None, as far as we know, had been apprehended or punished—they had presumably escaped to a man under the terms of the surrender of the parliamentary garrison. A few of them lived to become famous—Clement Walker as a controversialist, James Heane as a soldier. Fiennes himself had to suffer trial for his surrender of Bristol, before he resumed the civilian career to which his talents were so much better suited.<sup>2</sup>

The details of this royalist plot do not concern us here.<sup>3</sup> It was an attempt organized by some leading Bristolians, in concert with disaffected soldiers of Fiennes' garrison, to open the city to Rupert's troops on a pre-arranged date in March, 1643. Rupert brought a body of horse to the city's outskirts, but Fiennes, alarmed by his approach and informed of the plot by some renegades amongst the royalists, was able to surprise the plotters at their rendezvous, and eventually to arrest about eighty-five. Rupert's troops melted away, the conspirators were tried, and two were executed on 30 May, 1643. The two victims—Robert Yeamans and George Bouchier—were young and wealthy Bristolians, and to Yeamans the King had entrusted his commission of array. Charles did what he could to save them, but his best consisted in laying the responsibility on the Mayor and Council, where it did not belong, in a letter which arrived too late.<sup>4</sup> The Mayor did protest to the Earl of Essex against the sentence,<sup>5</sup> but this seems to have availed him little when the time came for a reckoning with the King.

<sup>1</sup> I have identified these individuals from a list of the members of the Council of War given in *The Copy of a Letter sent from Bristol*, London, 1644, pp. 6-8. Those signing the death-sentence are named in *The Two State Martyrs, or, the Murther of Master Robert Yeomans and Master George Bowcher, Citizens of Bristol* . . . , 1643, p. 13. The pamphlets on the plot and on Fiennes' trial give further details about them—for a list of the tracts, see E. R. Norris Mathews, *Bristol Bibliography*, 175-7. The Hippleys and Baugh were Bristolians, and possibly others, but there is no basis for Latimer's statement that the Council consisted of local citizens (*Annals*, ii. 174). Clifton and Langrish were in charge of the execution itself.

<sup>2</sup> For their careers, see *D.N.B.* James Heane's share in this affair has not hitherto been noticed. It is not mentioned in the latest history of the Cromwellian army, Firth and Davies, *The Regimental History of Cromwell's Army* (1940).

<sup>3</sup> The summary in *Annals*, ii. 170-5 is based on the pamphlet literature of the subject.

<sup>4</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1641-3, pp. 462-3; Rushworth, *Historical Collections*, v. 155-6. There was also a threat from a royalist commander to execute three of his prisoners at Cirencester in reprisal if the sentences were carried out (Rushworth, *op. cit.*, 154-5). This may have been inspired by the King.

<sup>5</sup> *H.M.C.*, Portland, i. 709.

The execution of these two royalists had results beyond its effects on this pardon. Their youth, ability and devotion, and their sixteen fatherless children, made them admirable subjects of propaganda, and they were soon beatified by royalist pamphleteers as the "Bristol Martyrs."<sup>1</sup> Their execution helped to justify Rupert's policy of severity. Even some parliamentarians condemned their sentences—if we may judge by the counts listed against Fiennes in his trial of the following December.<sup>2</sup> That charge was, however, due to the spite of Walker and of Prynne against Fiennes. Fiennes had, in fact, been acting under the instructions of Parliament throughout the trial of the royalists, and Parliament had confirmed the sentences of death.<sup>3</sup> Criticism at the time had condemned Fiennes for his delay rather than for his severity,<sup>4</sup> and it is difficult to see what other sentences were possible on men who had been proved guilty of conspiracy.<sup>5</sup>

#### (b) FAIRS AND MARKETS

##### (Numbers III, X and XIII)

THESE charters concerning fairs and markets illustrate two matters of interest in the economic and social history of Bristol—the difficulty of establishing new fairs in sixteenth-century conditions, and the usefulness of both fairs and markets as sources of poor-relief.

In May, 1529, as a result of a petition from the parishioners of St. Mary Redcliffe, a Candlemas fair was founded in that parish, to be held from the 2nd to the 9th of February, as the

<sup>1</sup> See especially *The Two State Martyrs* . . . (1643). The royalist pamphlets made much of the fact that the members of the Council of War were the social inferiors of the prisoners. Baugh was a sheepskin-dresser "who in times of peace durst not come neare Master Yeamans, but uncovered at a distance as his duty was". And, again: "Wee expose Earles, Barons and the flower of the Nobility and Gentry to blew Aprons and Broome-men" (*ibid.*, pp. 14, 16). Baugh is possibly the man of the same name in C.T. 04032 (1), Ledger, 1640-51, p. 84.

<sup>2</sup> W. Prynne and C. Walker, *A True and Full Relation* . . . (1644), pp. 2-3, 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Commons Journals*, 1642-4, pp. 3, 86, 97, 131. Bouchier's sentence was, however, confirmed after his execution.

<sup>4</sup> (ed.) O. Ogle and W. H. Bliss, *Calendar of the Clarendon State Papers*, i. 239.

<sup>5</sup> For the King's treatment of the families of the victims, see C.S.P.D., 1660-1, pp. 45, 109, 300, 455; *ibid.*, 1678, p. 166; *Gloucestershire Notes and Queries*, v. 307-8.

winter counterpart of the great summer fair of St. James.<sup>1</sup> Goods brought to the fair were admitted free of customs duties, and the fees and profits (which the Crown granted to the corporation) were to go to the poor of the three parishes of St. Mary Redcliffe, St. Thomas, and the Holy Cross in Temple Fee. St. Mary's paid £50 towards the expenses of the letters patent.<sup>2</sup>

But, established at a time of local economic distress,<sup>3</sup> the fair soon gave rise to complaints. The King and town lost customs-revenue. The traders and manufacturers of Bristol found that normal trading suffered from the advantages offered to strangers by seasonal fairs. Goods which had been brought into Bristol throughout most of the year, and distributed thence by local middlemen, were now imported in bulk at the time of the Candlemas Fair, and handled only by big London merchants, who would often stay on until the opening of the summer fair in July. The fish- and cloth-trades were hit particularly hard by these operations. As for the parishes and their poor, St. Mary's found the management of the fair unprofitable and was willing in 1537 to listen to the corporation's proposal to abandon it. Nothing came of the suggestion immediately, but in 1543 the Mayor proclaimed the ending of the fair, his justification being that it had proved to be injurious to the summer fair.

St. Mary's parish, acquiescent six years before, now resisted the Council's decision, and was joined by the two other parishes. In 1541 they had been forced to contribute a great deal of their plate to the corporation; faced by the prospect of further spoliation, they were now disinclined to surrender any source of revenue. They appealed to Star Chamber, and in a petition of January, 1544, signed by inhabitants of the three parishes, claimed that without the fair they would be unable to maintain their poor. St. Mary's parochial accounts were produced to prove that their endowments did not even cover the expense of their church services. But the corporation was able to bring strong evidence that the fair had been hurtful to local traders, and the Star Chamber's judgment, issued in May, 1544, allowed the fair to be abolished, on condition that the corporation repaid to St. Mary's the £50 which the parish had contributed towards the expenses of its grant.

<sup>1</sup> This account is based on the documents of the case of 1544 in Star Chamber, printed in I. S. Leadam, *Select Cases in Star Chamber* (Selden Soc. 1910), ii. 237-76.

<sup>2</sup> G.W.B., fo. 296 b.

<sup>3</sup> L. & P., Addenda, i. 238-9.

A few years later the idea of a winter fair reappeared. In 1550 the corporation, on the petition of Temple parish,<sup>1</sup> obtained the right to hold a fair for eight days beginning on 25 January in Temple parish.<sup>2</sup> The King again delegated to the city his rights to the profits, which the corporation in turn transferred to the parish, for the maintenance of the poor and of the water-supply. The parish paid the expenses of the grant,<sup>3</sup> and an annual rent or "royalty" of 20s. to the corporation.<sup>4</sup> The fair appears to have been a success, and it lasted, with that of St. James, until 1838.<sup>5</sup>

The third of these charters (No. XIII) represents the initial stage of a transaction by which Bristol acquired the earliest of its covered markets. In the sixteenth century markets were held in the open air, mostly in Broad Street, Wine Street and High Street. In 1570 or thereabouts (the exact date is unknown) the Council decided to build a hall for the flour- and meal-market, which suffered most from exposure to the weather, and chose a vacant plot in Wine Street as the site. The ground was owned by the feoffees of the church of St. Thomas, who (probably through Michael Sowdley, Councilman and recently Churchwarden of St. Thomas)<sup>6</sup> made an arrangement with the corporation, whereby the church allowed the Council to acquire the land in return for a promise that the corporation would obtain for the parish the grant of a weekly market.<sup>7</sup> Possibly this was to compensate them for the loss of the Candlemas Fair in 1544.

Having obtained the goodwill of the Earl of Leicester, recently appointed Lord High Steward of the city, the corporation sent a petition to the Queen, begging the grant of a market for the parish of St. Thomas', and pleading the impoverishment of the district by the decay of the clothing industry. Queen Elizabeth, touched by compassion for the poor, or pleased to humour the

<sup>1</sup> Temple Church MSS. no. 00037.

<sup>2</sup> The site of the fair is left obscure in *Trans. B. and G.*, cxxviii. 115. Temple Church MSS. no. 00139 makes it clear that it was held in Temple Street, until in 1805 it was moved to the side-streets. The date of the fair, and of its grant, are often given wrongly in local histories.

<sup>3</sup> Temple Church MSS. no. 00037. The parish also took possession of the letters patent.

<sup>4</sup> A.B., v. 22.

<sup>5</sup> *Annals*, iv. 242-4. The date was altered in 1731 to March (C.C.P., 1722-38, pp. 233-4).

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. Clifton Antiquarian Club*, i. 195.

<sup>7</sup> C.T. 00643 (1). My account of the affair is based on this document and on the others quoted below.

Earl, granted the appeal immediately, and on 11 December, 1570, conceded to the city a market for all commodities to be held every Thursday in the parish of St. Thomas', free of all tolls to the Crown. The city paid £30 for the letters patent, and later sent a tun of wine to Leicester for his help in their suit.<sup>1</sup>

The feoffees then fulfilled their part of the bargain. On 11 February following (1571) they granted to the corporation the vacant plot in Wine Street at an annual fee-farm rent of 40s., and undertook to pay an annual "royalty" of 20s. for the market.<sup>2</sup> On 25 May the market was proclaimed at the High Cross, and was opened on the following Thursday.<sup>3</sup> Finally, in August, 1571, the corporation completed the transaction by transferring the market to the feoffees, on condition that its revenues were never farmed out, but always used for the relief of the poor in Burton's almshouse and the maintenance of the water-conduit there.<sup>4</sup> In the next year, the city built the market-hall for flour and meal on the Wine Street site.<sup>5</sup>

The bargain pleased all parties. St. Thomas' Market became a prosperous centre for the sale of cattle and wool,<sup>6</sup> and in 1587, on a visit to Bristol, the Earl of Leicester is reported to have demanded its tolls, and had to be pacified by gifts of wine.<sup>7</sup> Later, in the following century, the market (or rather markets, for the cattle- and wool-markets were separated) were farmed out, in defiance of the terms of the indenture with the city, but no protest seems to have been made.<sup>8</sup> In 1835 the Charity Commissioners reported that the Vestry of St. Thomas' was in receipt of £170 *p.a.* from the rents of the farms, and that it was maintaining the almshouse and the conduit in good repair.<sup>9</sup> By

<sup>1</sup> A.B., ix. 86, 98. Sowdley and another suitor of Leicester's favour paid for the wine. I can find no evidence for the statement made in many of the town-chronicles (*e.g.*, B.R.L., Bristol MSS. no. 10166, *sub* 1570) that the Mayor, William Tucker, defrayed the cost of the letters patent.

<sup>2</sup> C.T. 00643 (1); A.B., ix. 86.

<sup>3</sup> Adams, *Chronicle*, 112.

<sup>4</sup> *Manchee*, ii. 364-5. The almshouse contained sixteen persons. Other conditions of the transfer were that the expenses of the market should be met out of its revenue, and that it should not be farmed out. The Mayor and Aldermen reserved their power of making regulations for the market (*cf.* C.C.P., 1649-59, p. 25).

<sup>5</sup> *Annals*, i. 58.

<sup>6</sup> A market-hall was built by 1583 (B.R.L., Bristol MSS. no. 4502, p. 77).

<sup>7</sup> B.R.L., Braik. Coll. MSS., v. 33.

<sup>8</sup> *Manchee*, ii. 366.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, loc. cit.

this time the cattle-market had been moved to Temple Meads by an act of 1828, where it still survives.<sup>1</sup>

(c) ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION

(Numbers VIII and XXI)

By charters of 1446 and 1461, Bristol gained exemption from the jurisdiction of the High Admiral.<sup>2</sup> But its powers remained insecure, in that their exercise depended on the issue by the Crown of commissions empowering it to act, and in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the expansion of the competence and claims of the central court of Admiralty had the effect of narrowing and eventually abolishing the rights established by Henry VI and Edward IV.<sup>3</sup>

In 1510 Henry VIII confirmed the charter of 1461, and issued a commission to the Mayor, Recorder and thirteen others.<sup>4</sup> But his reign was marked by an advance in the criminal and civil authority of the High Admiral, and by statutes of 1536 and 1540 there were reserved to the central court all cases of piracy and of breach of charter-parties.<sup>5</sup> It was perhaps because of this development that the corporation went to some expense to have their own rights in Admiralty matters confirmed at the beginning of the next reign.<sup>6</sup> But under Edward VI and Mary, the Admiral's court several times asserted its powers over those of the municipality,<sup>7</sup> and under Elizabeth the disputes became frequent.<sup>8</sup> With the growth of trade and piracy and war in the Elizabethan period, rights of Admiralty jurisdiction were too valuable to be lightly relinquished. Bristol and other sea-ports suffered alike. In 1582 the Crown suspended all exemptions for

<sup>1</sup> 9 George IV c. 41; *Annals*, iv. 123-4.

<sup>2</sup> *Vol. ii*, pp. 71-3, 122-7, 132-6.

<sup>3</sup> What follows is only a sketch of a subject which calls for thorough treatment. The corporation archives contain almost nothing about the substance of these disputes; the *Acts of the Privy Council* rather more.

<sup>4</sup> *Infra*, p. 229; *L. & P.*, i (pt. 1), p. 293.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. R. G. Marsden, *Select Pleas in the Court of Admiralty* (Selden Soc., 1894) vol. i, pp. lvi-lvii; 28 Henry VIII c. 15; 32 Henry VIII c. 14.

<sup>6</sup> *Infra*, pp. 111-12.

<sup>7</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1550-2, p. 250; *ibid.*, 1554-6, p. 303.

<sup>8</sup> From the Audit Books, it is clear that the principal disputes were in 1562-8, 1585-6 and 1596. In the course of the first, the Admiralty charter was called into question, and eventually taken to London and registered in the Admiralty court. But in 1564 the city was granted a commission for the suppression of piracy (*Acts of P.C.*, 1558-70, p. 164).

the space of three years,<sup>1</sup> and at the expiration of that term Bristol made a determined effort to assert its rights. As a result, an agreement was reached whereby the city retained its privileges, but submitted to a special procedure for criminal cases.<sup>2</sup>

A commission was issued by James I,<sup>3</sup> but none by Charles I, in the early years of whose reign the claims of the Admiralty grew even greater. In January, 1629, the corporation began to press for the grant of a commission,<sup>4</sup> but the only result of several years of agitation was the issue of a *quo warranto* by the Crown, calling into question the whole of the city's competence in these matters.<sup>5</sup> The city persisted in asserting its claims, but was forced in 1637 to abandon all its powers,<sup>6</sup> and in 1638 to accept a new charter of Admiralty. This limited its jurisdiction to personal actions, and set up a weekly court of magistrates to conduct the business. The court met in 1639 for the first time, and seems to have had very little to do.<sup>7</sup> A commission issued in 1644 to a Crown lawyer makes it clear that the city had very little power left.<sup>8</sup>

An attempt was made under the Commonwealth to reverse the decision of 1637-38, but without success.<sup>9</sup> Again, in 1690-92 the city resisted (successfully, for the moment), the entry of a Vice-Admiral.<sup>10</sup> But the arguments of the law-officers of the Crown in that case make it clear that the concession was only temporary.<sup>11</sup> By the mid-eighteenth century the city had itself abandoned its claims.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Marsden, *op. cit.*, ii. p. xvi.

<sup>2</sup> For the dispute of 1585-6, see Marsden, *op. cit.*, ii, p. xx; C.T. 00002; British Museum, Add. MSS. 12505 fos. 220-5; A.B., xi. 323, 331-2; and O.O.B., fo. 60. (C.T. 00002 is not dated, but comparison with B.M. Add. MSS. 12505 makes it clear that it refers to the dispute of 1585).

<sup>3</sup> *Infra*, pp. 230-1. In 1611 the council ordered the court to be held at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen (C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 19). In 1621 it suggested a renewal of the commission (*ibid.*, fo. 92).

<sup>4</sup> C.C.P., 1627-42, fo. 3 b.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, *sub* 10 September 1633. For the negotiations, see *ibid.*, *sub* 19 March, 9 April, and 10 September 1633; 5 March 1636; 17 April, 6 June 1637; 22 May 1638.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, *sub* 22 November 1637.

<sup>7</sup> C.T. 00003, Admiralty Court Order Book, covering 1639-46, during which no cases were tried in the Civil War, and only thirteen over the whole period.

<sup>8</sup> *Infra*, p. 231.

<sup>9</sup> C.C.P., 1649-59, pp. 109, 126.

<sup>10</sup> C.C.P., 1687-1702, fos. 60, 62 b, 74 b, 82, 90; C.T. Quarter Sessions Book, 1681-1704, *sub* 2 April 1692; *Annals*, ii. 460-1.

<sup>11</sup> P.R.O., P.C.Reg., 1690-2, pp. 159, 363, 454-5.

<sup>12</sup> M. Dodson, *The Life of Sir Michael Foster* . . . (1811), pp. 4-12.

## (d) DOCTOR WHITE'S TRUST, 1620

## (Number XVII)

IN 1624 there died in London the Reverend Thomas White, Doctor of Divinity, best known as the founder of Sion College, London, and of a chair of moral philosophy at Oxford.<sup>1</sup> The benefactor had had a successful career in the church, and at the time of his death was Rector of St. Dunstan's in the West, Prebendary of St. Paul's, Treasurer of Salisbury, Canon of Oxford and Canon of Windsor. He had no children, and the whole of his wealth was bequeathed to charity.

By origin he was a Bristolian, the son of a clothier of Temple Street, and although his career had been made elsewhere, he remained loyal, like most men of his age, to the place of his birth. The long and honourable series of his benefactions begins with the foundation in 1613 of Temple Hospital in Bristol, for the relief and employment of the poor.<sup>2</sup> Six years later, he was propounding to the corporation of Bristol a scheme for the endowment of the highways around the city.<sup>3</sup> The streets of the city itself had long been the concern of its government, but the roads along the approaches to Bristol were, under an act of 1555, governed or misgoverned by the parishes through which they ran.<sup>4</sup> The two centuries of neglect which English roads suffered after 1555 were due to a system which entrusted their maintenance to villagers who had neither the incentive nor the means to do the work. There was therefore no reason for the discontinuance of the old practice of endowing roads by private charity, and a pluralist like Dr. White may well have had cause to reflect on their condition.

The corporation in 1619, for their part, naturally welcomed his proposal. In the very year before, they had spent over £75 on the repair of the two main bridges in the city,<sup>5</sup> and they now hastened to agree to Dr. White's terms.<sup>6</sup> They immediately set about gaining a licence from the Crown for the acquisition of land worth £200-300 *p.a.*,<sup>7</sup> but, within a month, in November, 1619, had

<sup>1</sup> Cf. W. A. Sampson, *The Life of The Rev. Dr. Thomas White* (1912).

<sup>2</sup> *Manchee*, i. 113-15.

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 82 b.

<sup>4</sup> 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, c. 8. In 1600 and 1605, however, the city levied rates for the repair of the suburban highways (*Annals*, ii. 10-11).

<sup>5</sup> A.B., xvii. 260-4.

<sup>6</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, loc. cit.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*



decided to ask for a licence covering land "of such yerelye Vallue as his Ma<sup>te</sup> wilbe pleased to graunte."<sup>1</sup> In May, 1620, the licence was issued—for land to the value of £500 *p.a.*<sup>2</sup> It is unlikely that the corporation was expecting so much from Dr. White, though we have no knowledge of what passed between them in 1619. The city was probably giving itself ample cover, in case of other benefactions. In July, 1620, Dr. White did in fact make another gift to the city, and certain London properties were made over to the corporation for the provision of sermons, and for the relief of prisoners and of the poor.<sup>3</sup> And in February, 1623, when in a will he disposed of his remaining estate, he settled an annuity of £100 on Bristol for the roads.<sup>4</sup> It was to be spent on the repair of the highways around the city, to a furthestmost limit of five miles for the market roads, and ten miles for the roads to Bath and Oxford. Any surplus was to be loaned out in sums of £30 each to two honest tradesmen of Bristol, and of £10 each to "any four poor maidens of honest fame towards marrying."

In March, 1624, Dr. White died. Shortly afterwards, the corporation began negotiations with his executors about the details. A deputation was sent to London in October, 1624,<sup>5</sup> and in the following year, Alderman Doughty, M.P. for the city, was put in charge of the affair.<sup>6</sup> An agreement was reached in January, 1626, whereby the executors charged both the annuities with which Bristol was entrusted on the revenues of the manor of Bradwell on the coast of Essex, which White had owned.<sup>7</sup>

Payment of the £100 for the roads was made in 1624, and thereafter annually until 1642, and a great deal of road-repairing was done.<sup>8</sup> But in 1648, with the settling of the arrears which had accumulated during the Civil War, the payments ceased.<sup>9</sup> It appears that parts of the lands of the manor of Bradwell were subject to flooding, and the income both for the Bristol roads and for

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 85 b.

<sup>2</sup> *Infra*, pp. 141-4. The licence (and certain other legal business transacted at the same time) cost £146 (A.B., xvii. 351; xviii. 36, 100).

<sup>3</sup> *Manchee*, i. 118; C.T. 04376, Memoranda 1653, p. 38.

<sup>4</sup> *Manchee*, loc. cit.

<sup>5</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 125 b.

<sup>6</sup> A.B., xviii. 204.

<sup>7</sup> *Trans. B. and G.*, xliii. 228-9. This article by Mr. W. Leighton is the basis of my account.

<sup>8</sup> See e.g. A.B., xviii. 293, 297. In 1629 the Bath, Oxford, Bedminster and Barrow roads were repaired (*ibid.*, xix. 320).

<sup>9</sup> A.B., xxii. 203.

Sion College (also derived from the same lands) was therefore difficult to collect. In 1672-3 the corporation made an agreement with the executors that the annuitants should enter into possession of the lands, convey them to trustees, and share the revenues.<sup>1</sup> But Bradwell continued to be inundated, and by this trick of history, floods in Essex made impassable the roads around Bristol. Both Pepys and Queen Anne had reason to complain of the Bath road.<sup>2</sup> It was not until the Turnpike Acts, and until "McAdam the Magician" was made general manager of the Bristol turnpikes in 1815, that the highways were efficiently mended.<sup>3</sup>

Meantime, the endowment of 1624 had wonderfully improved in value, and in 1821 the corporation asked for Chancery's ruling as to what should be done with a surplus of £3,000.<sup>4</sup> The court in 1822 ordered that the money should be spent on roads, on loans and on marriage-portions, in accordance with the terms of Dr. White's will. In that very year, however, the corporation calmly appropriated almost £1,500 of the fund to pay off the debts left by a defaulting Chamberlain. This and another similar raid on the same endowment were condemned by the Charity Commissioners who examined the history of the fund in 1836, and in 1840 the corporation had to repay the money, with interest.

(e) THE CASTLE, 1629-30

(Numbers XIX and XX)

BRISTOL castle, by the beginning of the seventeenth century, had become a source of trouble to the city. Most of the buildings and walls were in ruins,<sup>5</sup> and within its grounds had been built cottages "piled on the heads of one another."<sup>6</sup> Here lived an underworld of paupers, semi-criminals and criminals, protected from the city's officers by the fact that the castle, being part of the royal manor of Barton, lay within the county of Gloucester. But the distant justices of Gloucestershire exercised no control over them. Nor

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. B. and G.*, xliii. 229.

<sup>2</sup> Pepys, *Diary* (ed. Wheatley), viii. 46-7; *Annals*, iii. 44-5.

<sup>3</sup> S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government: the Story of the King's Highway*, 179-80.

<sup>4</sup> *Trans. B. and G.*, xliii. 234-6.

<sup>5</sup> B.R.L., Braik. Coll. MSS., vii (pt. 1), pp. 299, 315.

<sup>6</sup> *C.S.P.D.*, 1629-31, p. 298.

did the Constables of the castle, usually non-resident officials whose only interest was in collecting their fees. The situation offered no easy remedy. The city, in the early years of the seventeenth century, adopted the most radical solution, and aimed at securing the inclusion of the castle in the city boundaries, and its purchase. Long and costly negotiations and quarrels followed, and not until 1629-30 was the process completed.

At some time in his reign, Henry VIII issued a privy seal which facilitated the punishment of offenders and offences within the castle. Nothing in detail is known of this instrument,<sup>1</sup> except that its effect was short-lived. In 1553 the city was thinking of taking other steps to secure control of the castle,<sup>2</sup> and in the early years of James I's reign proposals to revive the privy-seal arrangements were among the many projects of reform made by the corporation.<sup>3</sup> By that time the city was beginning to feel the results of the misrule of Sir John Stafford, Constable of the castle since 1588.<sup>4</sup> He kept no check on the tenants, and to some of them he issued licences to trade, which conflicted with the interests of the burgesses.<sup>5</sup> Therefore in 1611 the Council instructed one of the Parliamentary burgesses to arrange for the purchase of the castle, either outright or in fee-farm. Alternatively, he was to press for some administrative reform similar to that of Henry VIII.<sup>6</sup> Stafford countered by offering to the Crown (on his own behalf) a higher purchase price,<sup>7</sup> but the matter appears to have been dropped for a time.

In 1620 the corporation resumed negotiations in a petition of 6 March, complaining of Stafford's administration.<sup>8</sup> The Constable was summoned by the Privy Council to remove all undesirables and to admit only those for whom he could give surety.<sup>9</sup> But the corporation's renewed attempts to gain control

<sup>1</sup> It is mentioned in C.C.P., 1608-27, fos. 22, 128. In 1625 it was sent to London (*ibid.*, fo. 128). The original is now missing.

<sup>2</sup> C.T. 04027, last page.

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fos. 21 b-22. Its revival was also suggested in 1626 (*ibid.*, fo. 139 b).

<sup>4</sup> *Annals*, ii. 43.

<sup>5</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 120. It should be remarked that the Quarter Sessions Books contain no record of trouble with the castle.

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, n. 3; *Annals*, ii. 43-4.

<sup>7</sup> C.S.P.D., 1611-18, pp. 79, 81.

<sup>8</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1619-21, p. 364; wrongly ascribed by Nicholls and Taylor to 1602 (*Bristol, Past and Present*, i. 265-6).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

of the castle for the city once more failed.<sup>1</sup> In 1624 Stafford died, at the very moment when the corporation was planning to hasten the issue by a suit in Star Chamber against him.<sup>2</sup> At the accession of Charles I they petitioned the new sovereign for the incorporation of the castle in the city,<sup>3</sup> and did not abandon their pressure on the government when in 1626 the King granted a long lease of the castle to one Francis Brewster.<sup>4</sup> The Chamberlain, the Town-Clerk, the Recorder, above all the Parliamentary burgesses, were busy, and in 1628-29 two further petitions were sent, in one of which the corporation appealed for help to the Queen.<sup>5</sup> Most effective of all, perhaps, was the Council's revelation that men fit for service in the wars were escaping the press-gangs by taking refuge in the castle.<sup>6</sup> On 13 April, 1629, a charter was issued by which the castle was incorporated in the city.<sup>7</sup> The corporation immediately pressed on to request its purchase. This was obtained in October, 1630, for the sum of £959, at an annual fee-farm of £40.<sup>8</sup> The existing leaseholders were left undisturbed until 1634, when they were bought out for £520 10s.<sup>9</sup>

The castle was shortly afterwards to become of military importance once more. After 1625 the trained bands had used a yard there for artillery practice, and six years later they built an

<sup>1</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fos. 106-7; A.B., xviii. 37.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals*, ii. 44; C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 120.

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 127 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Deputy Keeper's Report*, xliii, App. 1, p. 36. For the negotiations, see C.C.P., 1608-27, fo. 139 b. They seem to have aimed at, and gained, a promise of the reversion of the lease (A.B., xix. 110).

<sup>5</sup> C.S.P.D., 1628-9, pp. 394-5; *Ricart* (Smith), 113-17.

<sup>6</sup> C.C.P., 1608-27, sub 8 May 1625.

<sup>7</sup> *Infra*, No. XIX. It is curious that the Ordinance Books contain no ordinance about the castle at this time. It was made part of St. Mary Port ward (C.T. 04451), but later became a ward by itself.

<sup>8</sup> The purchase-price was calculated in this way: the city was to pay £200 in cash, and was to remit the debt of £759 which the Exchequer already owed to the corporation for the charges of billeting and transporting a regiment en route to Ireland (C.S.P.D., 1629-31, p. 298). However, in 1630 the government paid its debt (A.B., xx. 13). It is impossible to calculate the exact costs of these charters, since in the Audit Books the entries are combined with those relating to a number of other Exchequer matters. The expenses included items ranging from 4s. 6d. for the doorkeeper of the Green Cloth, to a Persian carpet for the Lord Chief Baron (A.B., xix. 319; xx. 34). It should be added that in August 1630 the Lord Treasurer was made Lord High Steward of the city (C.C.P., 1627-42, sub 5 August 1630). For the petitions of 1629-30 for the purchase, see C.S.P.D., 1628-9, p. 532, and *ibid.*, 1629-31, p. 298. The Queen's favour was again solicited.

<sup>9</sup> C.C.P., 1627-42, sub 5 August 1634; A.B., xx. 243; *Annals*, ii. 114.

armoury.<sup>1</sup> During the Civil War, the castle was to some extent refortified,<sup>2</sup> and the corporation received no rents.<sup>3</sup> Nor did it pay the fee-farm, and settlement of this complicated question was not reached until 1656.<sup>4</sup> By that time, the government had pulled down the fortifications, and as a result the corporation was able to build a road across the grounds to link Peter Street with Old Market.<sup>5</sup> They also built new houses within the precincts, and these, together with the sale of some of the castle property in 1686, yielded an excellent return.<sup>6</sup> The grants of 1629-30, in fact, proved to be a good investment as well as an administrative reform.

(f) GRANT OF THE LORD MAYORALTY, 1899

(Number XXVI)

IN 1681 the city, with the Bishop's help, attempted without success to obtain from the Crown the title of Lord Mayor for its chief officer—a privilege then enjoyed only by London and York.<sup>7</sup> We hear nothing more of the idea until 1899, by which time the title had been conferred on five of the great industrial cities of the midlands and the north.<sup>8</sup> Its grant to Bristol seems to have had its origin in two events of 1897—the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, and the Bristol Extension Act. Amongst Bristol's celebrations of the Jubilee there was a scheme whereby the Mayor sponsored a public appeal for funds to erect a convalescent home, which the Queen later consented to open on its completion in 1899.<sup>9</sup> The Extension Act brought into the city boundaries several suburbs, raised the numbers of ratepayers by fourteen thousand, and increased the total membership of the Council by twenty.<sup>10</sup> It was therefore an appropriate gesture for the Queen to announce,

<sup>1</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1625-6, p. 211; *Adams, Chronicle*, 228.

<sup>2</sup> C.C.P., 1642-9, p. 11; C.T. 04376, *Memoranda* 1653, p. 12.

<sup>3</sup> These normally amounted to £120 *p.a.* (C.T. 04040, *Rentals*, p. 48). Before the war, the corporation had built houses there (*Memoranda* 1653, p. 4).

<sup>4</sup> *Memoranda* 1653, pp. 65-8; *Annals*, ii. 237-8.

<sup>5</sup> *Annals*, ii. 257-8; C.C.P., 1670-87, fo. 73 b.

<sup>6</sup> A.B., lv. fos. 34-6. Over £3000 was produced by the sale.

<sup>7</sup> *Annals*, iii. 29; S. and B. Webb, *English Local Government*, ii. 309.

<sup>8</sup> *Whitaker's Almanach*, 1899.

<sup>9</sup> *Annals*, v. 57-9.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 66, 69. This also brought an increase in the Mayor's allowance (C.C.P., 1898-9, p. 140).

at the head of her Birthday Honours list of 1899, the conferment of this new dignity on the city she was shortly to visit.<sup>1</sup> The letters patent were issued shortly afterwards on 21 June, and were read at a proud meeting of Council on 11 July.<sup>2</sup> That meeting was also the first to be held in the new chamber, built to accommodate the enlarged Council.<sup>3</sup>

To mark the occasion of the grant, a portrait of the Queen was ordered to be painted, the expenses being defrayed by public subscriptions.<sup>4</sup> These so far exceeded the cost of the portrait (which had to be a copy of one of 1885) that the Council was able to commission two additional paintings. One was a portrait of the first Lord Mayor (Sir Herbert Ashman), and the other a painting of the most remarkable incident of the Queen's visit of November, 1899, when she knighted him on the steps of the Council House.

<sup>1</sup> *The Times*, 3 June 1899; C.C.P., 1898-9, p. 179.

<sup>2</sup> C.C.P., 1898-9, pp. 196-7. The cost of the letters patent was just over £57. (C.T. Cash Book, 1897-1900, p. 229).

<sup>3</sup> C.C.P., 1896-8, pp. 368, 438, 485-6.

<sup>4</sup> This paragraph is based on *Annals*, v. 98. The Queen's portrait was destroyed by enemy action in January 1941.

***BRISTOL CHARTERS***

***1509—1899***





## I

FREE AND GENERAL PARDON, 1509<sup>1</sup>*Letters Patent of 16 May, 1 Henry VIII*

*The King grants a pardon to the Mayor, Commonalty and Burgesses of Bristol for all manner of crimes and offences committed by them or by any of them before 23 April last.*<sup>2</sup>

The original in the City Archives, C.T. 01228, consists of two skins, 19½" wide by 18½" long, both decayed or torn at the left-hand side so that several words at the beginning of each line are missing.<sup>3</sup> There are also some damp-spots and holes, and both skins have been backed by manilla paper, but the document is quite legible. The engrossment is unelaborate—ampersands are used for et, and there are no decorations beyond a few simple elongations of the capitals in line 1. The seal, in yellow wax (broken and incomplete), is attached by a parchment tab inserted through a slit in the folded lower margin. The name of the authenticating official was Porter.

*Endorsements :*

[In a contemporary hand] *Carta pdon' Henrici Octavi /*  
[In a later hand] *Charter of Free Pardon from Henry 8*  
[date illegible].

*Enrolment : P.R.O. Pardon Roll, 1 Henry VIII, pt. 3, m. 14*  
*(only a brief notice).*

L. & P., i. (pt. 1), pp. 3, 7, 8, 243; Latimer, *Calendar*, 123-4 (in which this Pardon is mistakenly attributed to Henry VII; see vol. ii, pp. 162-3).

<sup>1</sup> It has been decided not to print this Pardon, since it is one of a group of *consimiles littere patentes* issued in almost the same terms to all applicants. (For the circumstances, see *supra* p. 62). The model from which they were all drawn up is to be found in P.R.O. Chanc. Warrants, April 1509 (C.82/335), and consists of a long calendar of crimes and offences pardoned, into which was tacked at appropriate intervals the name or style of the recipient—in this case, the "*Maior Communitas & burgenses*" of Bristol. There is therefore nothing of specifically local interest in this instrument. Three of the pardons issued to towns at this time have been printed—in S.P.H. Statham, *Dover Charters* . . . (1902), 284-326, (with a translation), O. Ogle, *Royal Letters addressed to Oxford* (1892), 122-39, and J. W. Bradley, *The Royal Charters . . . granted to . . . Stafford*, (1897), 211-22 (with a translation). All these copies are in detail unreliable (Ogle's less so than the others), but are substantially the same as the Bristol document. It should be noted that the Bristol pardon contains the passage about *premunire* omitted in the case of Dover.

<sup>2</sup> The day after his accession to the throne.

<sup>3</sup> They can be supplied, with fair certainty, from the chancery warrant of April 1509, or from the printed versions of Statham, Ogle and Bradley.

## II

## GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1510

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 10 May, 2 Henry VIII.*

*Recites and confirms the General Confirmation of 5 February, 3 Henry VII (1488), (vol. ii, p. 163), and the Charter of 17 December, 15 Henry VII (1499), (ibid., 163-188). The name of the authenticating official was Yong.*

*Departmental notes :*

*pro viginti marcis solutis in hanaperio*

*Irrotulatur*

*Ex<sup>a</sup> per Will<sup>m</sup> Malhom et per Thomam Cowelen clericos*

*Endorsements : Carta Confirmacionis H viij*

*[In a later hand] Henry 8 Charter 1510*

*The original is preserved in the City Archives, C.T. 01231. It consists of eight membranes, measuring 34" wide, and in length 25" (mm. 1-3), 23" (mm. 4-6), 19½" (m. 7), and 22½" (m. 8); in fair condition, with some damp-spots, a hole in the right-hand margin of m. 5, and elsewhere a few patches backed by manilla paper. There are some decorations in the top margin of m. 1, consisting mostly of elaborations of capital initials. In the margins have been added notes in various 16th century hands, signaling the contents. The seal (one fragment only), in brown wax, is attached by green silk cords interwoven with gilt tinsel, threaded through the folded lower margin in lozenge pattern.*

*Enrolment : P.R.O. Conf. Roll, 2 Henry VIII, pt. 1 no. 10 (mm. I-II).*

*L. & P., i. (pt. 1), p. 296 (a full summary); Seyer, Charters, 165-6; Latimer, Calendar, 134-5; Weinbaum, B.B.C., 40.*

## III

## GRANT OF REDCLIFFE FAIR, 1529

*Letters Patent of 20 May, 21 Henry VIII.<sup>1</sup>*

*The King, of his special grace, grants a licence to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty to hold an annual fair in the parish of St. Mary Redcliffe, which shall last for eight days, from the 2nd to the 9th of February, and whose profits and issues shall go to the town.*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 21 Henry VIII, pt. 2, m. 9, lines 5-22.*

*L. & P., iv (pt. 3), p. 2663.*

*The text is taken from the Patent Rolls, where the whole of the enrolment is scored through. According to a note in the margin, the original was vacated by surrender to Chancery on 10 June 1544, and the enrolment cancelled, in accordance with an order of Council of 27 May of the same year.*

Rex Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Prioribus Ducibus Comitibus Baronibus Militibus Vicecomitibus Maioribus Constabulariis Balliuis Prepositis & <6> aliis Ministris nostris salutem Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra ac ex certa sciencia & mero motu nostris concessimus & licenciam dedimus pro <7> nobis & heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Ville nostre Bristollie quod ipsi & successores sui annuatim imperpetuum <8> habeant & teneant ac habere & tenere possint eis & successoribus suis imperpetuum infra Villam predictam vnam Feriam ibidem singulis <9> annis tenendam & custodiendam infra parochiam beate Marie de Redclyff infra Villam predictam infra bundas & limitaciones eiusdem <10> parochie & non alibi in dicta Villa Bristollie nec in suburbiis eiusdem Ville per spacium octo dierum duraturam Videlicet a secundo die <11> Mensis Februarij vsque ad nonem diem Februarij tunc proxime sequentem ibidem singulis annis in forma predicta imperpetuum <12> tenendam & duraturam cum omnibus & singulis amerciamentis commoditatibus priuilegijs aduantageijs tolnetis stallagijs picagijs reuencionibus <13> exitibus & proficuis

<sup>1</sup> Both this and the subsequent grant of a fair in 1550 (No. X, *infra* pp. 116-8) are interesting to the student of diplomatic, since they are in form a mixture of charter and of letters patent.

ad eandem Feream qualitercumque pertinentibus siue spectantibus seu de eadem prouenientibus absque aliquo compoto nobis <14> vel heredibus nostris inde reddendo faciendo seu soluendo Quare volumus & per presentes concedimus quod predicti Maior Burgenses & Communitas <15> dicte Ville Bristollie & successores sui annuatim habeant & teneant ac habere & tenere possint imperpetuum Feream predictam absque aliqua <16> perturbacione impedimento molestacione seu grauamine nostri heredum successorum seu Ministrorum nostrorum quorumcumque / Volumus eciam & concedimus quod <17> nullus alius officarius seu Minister noster nec heredum nostrorum in aliquo se intro-mittat cum dicta Ferea nec cum colleccione exituum proficuorum <18> amerciamenorum emolumentorum & tolnetorum predictorum nisi solomodo predicti Maior Burgenses & Communitas eiusdem Ville & Successores sui prout decet <19> Hiis testibus Reuerendissimis in Christo primatibus Thoma Cardinale Cancellario nostro Anglie & Eboracensi Archiepiscopo • Willelmo Cantuariensi <20> Archiepiscopo • Cuthberto Custode priuati nostri sigilli • & Johanne Bathoniensi & Wellensi Episcopis • Carissimis Consanguiniebus [sic] nostris Thoma <21> Duce Norff' Thesaurario nostro Anglie • & Carolo Duce Suff' • Georgio Comitie [sic] Salop' Seneschallo Hospicij nostri • & Willelmo FitzWilliam <22> Thesaurario Hospicij nostri • Eo quod expressa mencio etc. In cuius rei etc. Teste Rege apud le Mote xx die Septembris

*per ipsum Regem etc.*

#### IV

#### GRANT OF GAUNT'S HOSPITAL, GREY FRIARS, AND WHITE FRIARS, etc., 1541

##### *Letters Patent of 6 May, 33 Henry VIII.*

*By reason of his "sincere affection . . . and also for the sum of a thousand pounds sterling", the King grants to the town the following groups of properties :*

(1) *The house, site, and most of the possessions of the Hospital of St. Mark, Billeswick (Gaunt's Hospital), comprising the manors of Earthcott Gaunts and Lee in Gloucestershire, Stockland Gaunts*<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Stockland Gaunts became known as Stockland Bristol.

in Somerset (with the advowson and patronage of the churches of Stockland Gaunts and Overstowey), and Winterbourne Gunner (alias Cherborough) in Wiltshire. The grant is not to include the manor of Pawlett Gaunts (Somerset) which the King has made over to Richard Cupper;<sup>1</sup>

(2) The manor of Hamp in Somerset, lately belonging to the monastery of Athelney and now in the hands of Sir Richard Warre and his son;

(3) Certain land on St. Michael's Hill, Bristol—"Aysthenn close and the perok pasture"<sup>2</sup>—lately belonging to the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene, Bristol, and now in the tenure of William Chester, and worth ten shillings a year;

(4) The house, site and possessions of the Grey Friars in Bristol, together with the prisage of fish belonging jointly to the Grey Friars and the Black Friars;

(5) The house, site and possessions of the White Friars in Bristol, including Hooper's Hall.<sup>3</sup>

The whole of the grant is to be held by the service of a single knight's fee, at an annual charge of £20.

The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01256(1). It consists of a single membrane 36" wide by 23" long; in good condition apart from fraying at the folds; with decorations in the top margin including a portrait of the King, the Royal Arms and the crest of the Prince of Wales; a seal of brown wax, in good condition, attached by green silk cords inserted in lozenge pattern through the folded lower margin.

Endorsements: *Brewham patent*

*Lres patent*

*Hampe Stockland Brewam Gt Erthcot & Lea etc.*

*6 May 1541*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 33 Henry VIII, pt. I mm. 11-12.*

*Copies: 4 G.W.B. fos. 253-5 (a little inaccurate and almost wholly ungrammatical); [printed] H. Bush, Bristol Town Duties, 63-8 (a copy of the signet warrant).*

<sup>1</sup> L. & P., xv. 404.

<sup>2</sup> I have been unable to trace the word *Aysthenn*. In the City Accounts the field is called "The Mawdlen Close" (e.g. A.B., v. 115). *Perok* is a paddock; a variant still in use in the countryside around Bristol.

<sup>3</sup> There was a John Hooper among the Carmelites at the time of the Dissolution (Barrett, *History of Bristol*, 412-13).

<sup>4</sup> There is no copy of these letters patent in the Gaunts cartulary, C.T. 01807(1-2), as is implied in vol. i, p. xxi.

*Translation : C.T. 01256(2). An endorsement records that the Chamberlain paid 5 gns. for it to Rev. Israel Lewis on 28 September 1793. It was apparently taken from the enrolment, and suffers from a few omissions and inaccuracies.*

*L. & P., xvi. 418; Latimer, Calendar, 135-7.*

Henricus Octauus Dei Gracia Anglie Francie Rex Fidei Defensor <2> Dominus Hibernie et in terra supremum caput Anglicane ecclesie Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint, Salutem. Sciatis quod nos tam ob sinceram affectionem quam erga Villam nostram Bristollie gerimus quam pro summa Mille librarum sterlingorum ad <3> manus Thesaurarii Curie nostre Augmentacionum reuencionum Corone nostre ad vsum nostrum per Dilectos nobis Maiorem et Communitatem dicte Ville nostre Bristollie soluta de quaquidem summa Mille librarum fatemur nos plenarie fore contentos et satisfactos dictosque Maiorem et <4> Communitatem et eorum successores inde esse quietos et exoneratos per presentes de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus et per presentes damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati dicte Ville nostre Bristollie totum domum et Scitum nuper <5> hospitalis siue domus sancti Marci de Billiswike alias dictum lez Gauntes iuxta Villam nostram Bristollie predictam Ac totum ecclesiam Campanile et Cimiterium eiusdem nuper hospitalis Ac omnia Maneria nostra de Erdecote Gauntes et lee cum suis iuribus membris et pertinenciis <6> vniuersis in Comitatu nostro Gloucestrie dicto nuper hospitali siue domui vocato lez Gauntes dudum spectantia et pertinentia ac parcelle possessionum inde existentia Ac totum Manerium nostrum de Stokelande Gauntes cum suis iuribus membris et pertinenciis vniuersis in Comitatu nostro Somersete dicto nuper <7> hospitali siue domui de lez Gauntes simili modo dudum spectans et pertinens ac parcella possessionum inde existens Necnon Rectorias et ecclesias nostras de Stokeland Gauntes et Overstowy cum suis iuribus et pertinenciis vniuersis in dicto comitatu nostro Somersete dicto nuper <8> hospitali siue domui vocato lez Gauntes dudum spectantes et pertinentes / Necnon aduocaciones donaciones liberas disposiciones et iura patronatus Vicariarum ecclesiarum de Stokelande Gauntes et Overstowy in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete ac totum Manerium nostrum de Wynterborne <9> Gonner alias dictum Cherburgh cum suis iuribus membris et pertinenciis vniuersis in Comitatu nostro Wiltes' dicto nuper hospitali siue domui

vocato lez Gautes dudum spectans et pertinens ac parcella possessionum inde existens Ac omnia mesuagia terras tenementa prata <10> pascuas pasturas redditus reuersiones seruicia ac cetera hereditamenta nostra quecumque dictis Maneriis seu eorum alicui spectantia et pertinentia Ac omnia Maneria grangias molendina tofta cotagia gardina terras prata pascuas pasturas communias iampna brueras <11> moras mariscos boscos subboscos aquas aquarum cursus piscarum piscationes Rectorias Capellas et ecclesias aduocaciones et iura patronatus ecclesiarum Vicariarum et Capellarum quarumcumque penciones porciones decimas oblaciones terras glebas redditus reuersiones seruicia <12> annuitates redditus super quibuscumque dimissionibus et concessionibus reseruatis feoda Militum escaetas releuia feodi firmas curias letas Visum franciplegii catalla wainata extrahuras assaiam panis vini et seruicie liberas warrennas ac alia nostra iurisdicciones proficua <13> emolumenta commoditates proficua priuilegia possessiones et hereditamenta nostra quecumque in dicta Villa Bristollie et suburbii eiusdem Ville ac alibi ubicumque infra Comitatum nostrum Ville Bristollie ac in parochia de Almondysbury et in lee in dicto Comitatu nostro Gloucestrie ac in <14> Stokeland Gautes Overstowey et Browham in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete aceciam in Wynterborne Gonner alias dictum Cherburgh in dicto Comitatu nostro Wiltes' dicto nuper hospitali siue domui vocato lez Gautes quoquomodo spectantia vel pertinentia ac parcella <15> possessionum iurium seu hereditamentorum eiusdem nuper hospitalis siue domus vocati lez Gautes existentia adeo plene et integre et in tam amplis modo et forma prout vltimus Magister et confratres dicti nuper hospitalis siue domus vocati lez Gautes aut <16> aliquis predecessorum suorum Magistrorum et Confratrum eiusdem nuper hospitalis siue domus in iure nuper hospitalis siue domus illius aliquo tempore ante dissolutionem eiusdem nuper hospitalis siue domus vel antequam nuper hospitale siue domus illa <17> ad manus nostras deuenit omnia et singula predicta Maneria Rectorias decimas aduocaciones terras tenementa redditus reuersiones seruicia ac cetera omnia et singula premissa superius expressa et specificata cum pertinentiis vel aliquam inde parcellam <18> habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuít Et adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout ea omnia et singula ad manus nostras ratione vel pretextu dissolutionis <19> dicti nuper hospitalis siue domus aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius Carte doni

concessionis sursum reddicionis vel confirmacionis per nuper Magistrum et nuper Confratres dicti nuper hospitalis siue domus vocati lez Gauntes sub sigillo suo conuentuali nobis facti <20> aut aliter quocumque modo deuenerunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel deberent (Exceptis tamen semper et extra presentem concessionem nostram omnino reseruatis toto Manerio de Poulett Gauntes ac omnibus terris tenementis redditibus reuersionibus <21> seruiciis et hereditamentis in Poulett Gauntes Southam' et Northam' in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete que per litteras nostras patentes sub magno sigillo nostro Anglie confectas nuper concessimus Ricardo Cupper heredibus et assignatis suis imperpetuum Damus eciam et pro consideracione predicta per presentes <22> concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati dicte Ville nostre Bristollie totum Manerium nostrum de Hampe cum suis iuribus membris et pertinenciis vniuersis in Comitatu nostro Somersete nuper Monasterio de Athelney in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete modo dissoluto dudum spectans et pertinens ac parcella possessionum eiusdem nuper Monasterii <23> de Athelney existens Necnon omnia illa mesuagia terras tenementa prata pascuas pasturas communias et hereditamenta nostra quecumque cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Ricardi Warre Militis et Roberti Warr filii ipsius Ricardi vel eorum alterius vel assignatorum suorum siue eorum alterius <24> scituata et existentia in Hampe predicto in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete dicto nuper monasterio de Athelney dudum spectantia et pertinentia ac parcella possessionum eiusdem nuper monasterii de Athelney existentia ac omnes et omnimodos boscos et subboscos de et super premissis in Hampe in dicto comitatu nostro Somersete crescentes et existentes ac <25> redditus reuersionem et reuersiones et annualia proficua omnium et singulorum premissorum in Hampe predicto in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete Ac omnia mesuagia grangias molendina terras tenementa prata pascuas pasturas communias vasta iampna brueras aquas piscarias boscos subboscos redditus reuersiones seruicia <26> redditus super quibuscumque dimissionibus et concessionibus reseruatis ac alia commoditates proficua emolumenta et hereditamenta nostra quecumque cum pertinenciis in Hampe in dicto Comitatu nostro Somersete ac alibi ubicumque in eodem Comitatu Somersete dicto Manerio de Hampe quomodo spectantia siue pertinentia aut <27> vt membra vel parcella eiusdem Manerii de Hampe ante hac habita cognita seu



reputata existentia Damus insuper et pro consideracione predicta per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati dicte Ville nostre Bristollie tam infra dicta Maneria de Erdcote Gauntes lee Stokeland Gauntes et <28> Wynterborne Gonner quam infra predictum Manerium de Hampe et cetera omnia premissa superius specificata (exceptis preexceptis ac infra quamlibet inde parcellam tot tanta talia eadem huiusmodi et consimilia Curias letas visus franciplegii ac omnia que ad visum franciplegii spectant et pertinent / Necnon assisam <29> et assaiam panis vini et seruisie catalla wainata extrahuras liberas warrennas ac alia iura proficua commoditates et emolumenta quecumque quot quanta qualia et que et adeo plene et integre ac eisdem et in tam amplis et consimilibus modo et forma prout vltimus Magister et nuper <30> Confratres dicti nuper hospitalis siue domus sancti Marci de Billeswyke alias dicti<sup>1</sup> lez Gauntes et vltimus Abbas et nuper Conuentus dicti nuper Monasterii de Athelney aut eorum aliquis aut aliquis vel aliquo predecessorum<sup>2</sup> suorum seu eorum alicuius in iuribus eorundem nuper hospitalis et Monasterii seu eorum alterius <31> aliquo tempore ante seperales dissoluciones eorundem nuper hospitalis et Monasterii vnquam habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuit in predictis Maneriis terris tenementis et ceteris premissis seu in aliqua inde parcella racione vel <32> pretextu alicuius prescriptionis vsus seu consuetudinis ante hac habita vel vsitata aut racione vel pretextu aliquarum concessionum seu confirmacionum aut aliquarum litterarum patencium per nos seu per aliquem progenitorum nostrorum prefatis vltimo Magistro et nuper Confratribus dicti nuper hospitalis et dicto vltimo Abbati et nuper <33> Conuentui dicti nuper Monasterii de Athelney vel eorum alicui aut alicui vel aliquibus predecessorum suorum siue eorum alicuius quoquomodo factarum vel concessarum seu quocumque alio modo et adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout dicti vltimus Magister et nuper Confratres dicti nuper hospitalis et dicti <34> vltimus Abbas et nuper Conuentus dicti nuper Monasterii de Athelney vel eorum aliquis aut aliquis vel aliqui predecessorum<sup>3</sup> suorum seu eorum alicuius in iure nuper hospitalis et Monasteriorum illorum seu eorum alterius aliquo tempore ante seperales dissoluciones eorundem nuper hospitalis et Monasterii vel antequam

<sup>1</sup> *dictum* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *predicessorum* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> *predicessorum* in MS.

nuper <35> hospitalis et Monasterium illa ad manus nostras seperaliter deuenerunt predicta Maneria mesuagia terras tene-  
 menta Curias letas visus franciplegii catalla wainata extrahuras  
 liberas warrennas et cetera premissa cum pertinenciis (exceptis  
 preexceptis vel aliquam inde parcellam habuerunt tenuerunt vel  
 gauisi fuerunt habuit <36> tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere  
 tenere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuit Et adeo plene et integre  
 ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout ea omnia et singula ad  
 manus nostras ratione vel pretextu seperalium dissolutionum  
 dictorum nuper hospitalis et Monasterii aut ratione vel pretextu  
 alicuius Carte doni concessionis <37> sursum reddicionis vel  
 confirmacionis aut aliquorum<sup>1</sup> Cartarum donorum concessionum  
 sursum reddicionum vel confirmacionum per nuper Magistrum  
 et nuper Confratres dicti nuper hospitalis ac per nuper Abbatem  
 et nuper Conuentum dicti nuper Monasterii seu per<sup>2</sup> eorum aliquem  
 sub Sigillis suis Conuentualibus nobis confectorum aut aliter <38>  
 quocumque modo deuenerunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in  
 manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel deberent  
 Damus vltorius et pro consideracione predicta per presentes  
 concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati totum illud Clausum  
 pasture nostrum vocatum Aysthenn Close et vnam parcellam <39>  
 seu le perok pasture nostram eidem clauso vocato Aysthenn  
 Close proxime adiacentem nuper in tenura Willelmi Freman et  
 modo in tenura Willelmi Chester iacentia et existentia super  
 Montem sancti Michaelis in Suburbis predictae Ville nostre  
 Bristollie Videlicet iuxta venellam vocatam Magdalen' lane  
 ibidem nuper Monasterio siue Prioratui sancte <40> Marie Mag-  
 dalene iuxta Villam nostram Bristollie modo dissoluto dudum  
 spectantia et pertinentia ac parcellae possessionum inde existentia  
 Quequidem pastura vocata Aysthenn Close et predicta parcella  
 seu lee perok pasture eidem pertinens modo extenduntur ad  
 clarum annum valorem decem solidorum Aceciam <41> Damus  
 et pro consideracionibus predictis per presentes concedimus  
 prefatis Maiori et Communitati de Villa nostra Bristollie totum  
 domum et Scitum nuper domus dudum fratrum minorum  
 vulgariter nuncupatorum lez Grey Freres infra dictam Villam  
 nostram Bristollie modo dissolutum ac omnia domos edificia  
 orrea columbaria <42> ortos pomeria gardina Cimiteria aquas  
 stagni viuaria terras et solum nostra tam infra quam prope et<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *aliquarum* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *per* interlineated over caret.

<sup>3</sup> *et* interlineated over caret.

iuxta Scitum septimi ambitum circuitum et procinctum dicte nuper domus dudum fratrum minorum existentia Ac omnes aquas aqueductus et cursus aquarum dicto domui dudum fratrum minorum quoquomodo spectantes <43> pertinentes<sup>1</sup> accurentes et confluentes Necnon vnam parcellam terre nostram vocatam le lyme Kyll' modo vel nuper in tenura Thome haynes in Villa Bristollie predicta dicto nuper domui dudum fratrum minorum dudum spectantem et pertinentem ac parcellam possessionum inde existentem Aceciam totam prisam omnium et singulorum piscium <44> infra Villam libertatem et Comitatum Ville nostre Bristollie annuatim et de tempore in tempus accidentem emergentem prouenientem seu contingentem Quequidem prisa piscium dicto domui dudum fratrum minorum Ac nuper domui dudum fratrum predicatorum vulgariter nuncupatorum lez Blake Freres infra dictam Villam nostram Bristollie modo <45> dissolutis dudum spectabat et pertinebat<sup>2</sup> Damus vltcrius et pro consideratione predicta per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati predictae Ville Bristollie totum domum et Scitum nuper domus dudum fratrum Carmelitarum vulgariter nuncupatorum lez White Freres infra Villam nostram <46> Bristollie modo dissolutum ac totum mesuagium et domum vocatum le Hopers Hall cum suis pertinenciis infra Scitum dicti domus dudum fratrum Carmelitarum existentem, Ac omnia Cimiteria ortos pomeria gardina terras et solum nostra tam infra quam iuxta ac prope Scitum septimi ambitum circuitum et procinctum eiusdem nuper <47> domus dudum fratrum Carmelitarum existentia que modo sunt vel nuper fuerunt in tenura seu occupatione David Hobbis Habenda tenenda et gaudenda omnia et singula predicta Scitum dicti nuper hospitalis de Bylleswyke alias dicti lez Gauntes ac predictorum domum dudum fratrum minorum et dudum fratrum <48> Carmelitarum in dicta Villa<sup>3</sup> Bristollie ac omnia predicta Maneria mesuagia grangias tenementa Rectorias aduocaciones decimas terras prata pasturas boscos redditus reuersiones seruicia et cetera omnia et singula premissa superius expressa et specificata cum suis pertinenciis vniuersis (exceptis preexceptis) prefatis Maiori et <49> Communitati dicte Ville nostre Bristollie ac eorum successoribus imperpetuum Tenenda de nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris in Capite per seruicium vnius feodi Militis Ac reddenda inde annuatim

<sup>1</sup> *partinentes* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *spectabant et pertinebant* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> *Ville* in MS.

nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris viginti libras sterlingorum ad Curiam nostram Augmentacionum reuencionum Corone <50> nostre ad festum sancti Michaelis Archangeli singulis Annis soluendas pro omnibus redditibus seruiciis et demandis quibuscumque proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quomodo reddendis soluendis vel faciendis Et Vltorius de vberiori gracia nostra damus et pro consideracione predicta per presentes <51> concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati omnimoda exitus redditus reuenciones et proficua omnium et singulorum predictorum Maneriorum Rectoriarum terrarum tenementorum et ceterorum premissorum superius expressorum et specificatorum cum pertinenciis a festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli Anno regni nostri tricesimo primo hucusque prouenientia <52> siue crescentia Habenda eisdem Maiori et Communitati ex dono nostro absque compoto seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Eo Quod expressa mencio<sup>1</sup> de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut de aliis donis siue <53> concessionibus per nos prefatis Maiori et Communitati ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit / aut aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione siue restriccionem inde contrarium facto edito ordinato siue prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante In <54> Cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium sexto die Maii Anno regni nostri tricesimo tercio

*per breue de priuato sigillo et de data predicta auctoritate parliamenti*<sup>2</sup>

Leder

(On fold) *Irro' per Willelmum Berners Audit'*

*Irro' per Mathiam Coltehirste Audit'*

*R. Cupper Exa' /*

<sup>1</sup> The phrase *Eo quod . . . existit* refers to the statute of I Henry IV c. 6, which required all who petitioned the Crown for a grant of land to specify its value.

<sup>2</sup> This phrase, which had become common form by the time of this charter, refers to a statute of 1439 which forbade the antedating of royal grants. For the explanation, see H. C. Maxwell-Lyte, *The Great Seal*, 258-60.

## V

## GRANT OF THE TITLE OF CITY, 1542

*Extract from the Letters Patent of 4 June, 34 Henry VIII*

*The King proclaims that the Abbey of St. Augustine with all its possessions has been surrendered into his hands by the Abbot, Morgan Apgwilliam. He therefore directs that the church be a cathedral church and the seat of the Bishop, and that "the whole of our town of Bristol from now henceforth for ever shall be a city", and that the whole county of the town of Bristol shall be the county of the city of Bristol.*

*The City Archives contain two contemporary copies of this section of the instrument (i.e. the part relating to the town), in G.W.B., fo. 299 b and in Ricart's Maiores Kalendar, fo. 226. This transcription is of the copy in G.W.B. The original is not to be found in the Cathedral archives, or in the Diocesan Registry, and probably perished in the riots of 1831.<sup>1</sup>*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 34 Henry VIII, pt. 10, mm. 2-4.*

*Printed Copy: Rymer, Foedera (ed. 1727-35), xiv. 749-53.*

*Translation: C.T. 00664 (1); a translation of the whole charter made from the enrolment, c. 1790.*

*L. & P., xvii. 255; Latimer, Calendar, 141.*

Henricus octavus dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie <2>  
Rex fidei defensor ac in terra sub Christo <sup>2</sup> ecclesie Anglicane <3>  
et Hibernice Caput supremum Omnibus ad quos he presentes <4>  
littere pervenerint Salutem, Cum nuper Cenobium quoddam <5>  
sive monasterium quoddam extitit monasterium Sancti <6>  
Augustini, Bristollie vulgo vocabatur atque omnia et singula <7>  
eius dominia messuagia terre tenementa hereditamenta dota-  
ciones <8> et possessiones et certis de causis specialibus et vrgenti-  
bus <9> per Morganum Apgwilliam alias Gwillam ipsius nuper  
<10> Cenobii sive Monasterii <sup>3</sup> abbatem et eiusdem loci Conven-  
tum <11> nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris Imperpetuum

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mr. W. Sefton Clarke, Diocesan Registrar, for this information.

<sup>2</sup> The *sub Christo* is notable, for the usual style of Henry VIII, established by 35 Henry VIII c.3, did not include it. There are only two other examples of his using it in Rymer's *Foedera* (xiv. 707, and xv. 88).

<sup>3</sup> *Monasterium* in MS.

iamdudum data <12> fuerunt et concessa prout per ipsorum nuper Abbatis et nuper <13> Conventus Cartam Sigillo suo communi siue conventuali <14> Sigillatam Et in Cancellaria nostra irrotulata manifeste liquet <15> quorum pretextu nos de eiusdem nuper Cenobij sive monasterii <16> Scitu Septo et pro-cinctu ac de omnibus et singulis predictorum <17> Abbatis et Conventus manerijs dominijs Messuagijs terris <18> tenementis hereditamentis dotacionibus et possessionibus ad presens <19> plene iure seisiti sumus in dominico nostro vt de Feodo etc. <20> Volumus itaque ac per presentes Ordinamus quod Ecclesia <21> Cathedralis predicta sit et Imperpetuum deinceps erit Ecclesia <22> Cathedralis et Sedes Episcopalis, Ac quod tota villa <23> nostra Bristollie ex nunc deinceps Imperpetuum sit Civitas <24> ipsamque Civitatem Bristollie vocari appellari ac nominari <25> volumus et decrevimus Ac quod totus ille Comitatus noster <26> Ville nostre Bristollie de cetero Imperpetuum erit Comitatus <27> Civitatis nostre Bristollie ac ipsum Comitatem ville Bristollie <28> posthac Imperpetuum Comitatem Civitatis nostre Bristollie nuncupari et nominari volumus et decrevimus <29> per presentes etc. In Cuius Rei Testimonium has <30> litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipso <31> apud Westmonasterium quarto die Junij Anno <32> Regni nostri Tricesimo quarto  
*per breve de privato Sigillo et de  
data predicta Authoritate parlamenti*

Martyn.

## VI

GRANT OF TEMPLE FEE, LORD LISLE'S LANDS etc., 1544

### *Letters Patent of 9 July, 36 Henry VIII*

*In return for the sum of £789 17s. 10d., the King grants to the city in perpetuity the following three properties:*

(1) *The manor of Temple Fee, in the counties of Bristol and of Somerset, lately belonging to the recently dissolved Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem*<sup>1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> The charter gives a list of the tenants and of their holdings in Bristol, Portbury and West Weston (i.e. Weston-super-Mare), with the amounts of the rents in the case of the freeholders. See *infra* pp. 96-101.

(2) *A vacant plot of ground on Bristol bridge lately belonging to the recently dissolved Priory at Witham;*

(3) *The lands and property late of the Lord Lisle, in Bristol and in Barton Hundred, Gloucestershire.*<sup>1</sup>

*The annual values of the properties are assessed at £14 8s. 10d., 12d., and £57 6s. 4d. respectively, and their rents and revenues are to be transferred to the city from 25 March 1544. The whole grant is to be held of the King by the service of a fortieth part of a knight's fee.*

*The text has been taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01232. It consists of four membranes 34" in width, and in length 25½" (m. 1), 25" (m. 2), 24½" (m. 3) and 15" (m. 4). In fair condition; holes in the margins of the first three membranes; m. 1 mended; the upper part of m. 3 rubbed and partially illegible; m. 4 discoloured and torn, and backed by manilla paper. Decorations in the top margin of m. 1 include a portrait of the King, the Royal Arms, and the crest of the Prince of Wales. The seal missing, but some of its green cords still attached in the usual lozenge pattern to the folded bottom margin.*

*Endorsements: Temple fee and the Lord Lises lands . .*

*[obscured by a mending-patch] . . . ye 8th Grant 1545*

*[A third endorsement illegible]*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 36 Henry VIII, pt. 28, mm. 1-4.*

*Copy: C.T. 00664(3); early 19th century; omits the words difficult to read; wrongly described in vol. i, p. xxi as a copy of 4 June, 34 Henry VIII.*

*Translation: C.T. 00664(4); early 19th century.*

*L. & P., xix (pt. 1), p. 626; Latimer, Calendar, 137-8.*

Henricus Octauus Dei Gracia Anglie Francie <2> et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernice supremum caput Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem Sciatis quod nos pro <3> summa septingentarum octoginta nonem librarum septemdecim solidorum et decem denariorum bone et legalis monete nostre Anglie ad manus Thesaurarii nostri Curie nostre Augmentacionum <4> Reuencionum Corone nostre ad vsum nostrum per Dilectos Subditos nostros Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem Ville siue Ciuitatis nostre Brystollie soluta De

<sup>1</sup> A detailed account of the properties and tenants is given in the text, *infra* pp. 102-8.

quā quidem summa <5> fātemur nos plenarie esse satisfactos et contentatos eosdemque Maiorem Bristollie Communitatem et successores suos inde acquietatos et exoneratos esse per presentes De gracia nostra <6> speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Ville siue Ciuitatis <7> Bristollie predictae totum illud manerium nostrum de Templefee infra predictam Villam siue Ciuitatem nostram Bristollie in comitatibus nostris eiusdem Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie <8> et Somersete cum suis membris iuribus et pertinentiis vniuersis nuper Prioratui siue Hospitali sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia modo dissoluto dudum spectans siue pertineans <9> ac parcella terrarum possessionum siue reuencionum nuper Preceptorie de Templecombe in comitatu nostro Somersete existens aceciam totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum <10> solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis iacentibus et existentibus extra Portam Ville siue Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie vocatam Temple Yate in dicto comitatu nostro Ville siue <11> Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae Quequidem terras<sup>1</sup> et tenementa Johannes Rodney Armiger modo de nobis per redditum predictum tenet / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum triginta <12> sex solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum predictum que Gardiani siue Procuratores ecclesie parochialis ibidem vocate Temple <13> Churche modo de nobis libere tenent per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum trium solidorum et quatuor denariorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis <14> iacentibus et existentibus infra comitatum predictum Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae que terras et tenementa Martinus Pollarde modo de nobis per redditum illum tenet Et quequidem terre et tenementa nuper fuerunt domine <15> Johanne Ogafi vidue ac totum illum redditum nostrum quatuor solidorum vnius denarii et obuli per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis vocatis Kateryne Hall in Templestrete predicta que quidem <16> terras et tenementa procuratores ecclesie parochialis Sancte Katerine in Templestrete predicta de nobis per redditum illum tenent / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum viginti trium denariorum per annum exeuntem <17> de certis terris et tenementis scituatis et iacentibus iuxta Glouers Grene in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum Ville Bristollie predictae que procuratores ecclesie

<sup>1</sup> terre in MS.



parochialis vocate Ratclyff libere de nobis per redditum <18> illum tenent / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum per annum exeuntem de quibusdam terris et tenementis in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum predictum et scituatis prope tenementum Cristoferi <19> Goldesmyth modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Whyte libere de nobis modo tentis per redditum predictum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum trium solidorum nonem denariorum et vnus obuli per annum exeuntem <20> de tribus tenementis scituatis in Templestrete predicta videlicet iuxta crucem ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura vel occupacione Willelmi Skelke libere de nobis tentis per redditum predictum / Ac totum illum liberum <21> redditum nostrum duodecim denariorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum predictum Ville Bristollie predictae que quidem terras et tenementa procuratores ecclesie parochialis <22> ibidem vocate Temple Church libere de nobis per redditum illum tenent / Aceciam totum illum liberum redditum nostrum octodecim solidorum et octo denariorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis scituatis <23> in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum predictum que Johannes Dudley prenobilis ordinis Gartherie miles vicecomes Lisley nuper de nobis libere tenuit per redditum predictum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum octodecim <24> denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio in Templestrete predicta infra Comitatum predictum Ville Bristollie predictae quondam Iynk'<sup>1</sup> modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis<sup>2</sup> Stevens de nobis libere tento <25> per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum quatuor denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio in Templestrete predicta nunc vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Lyons quodquidem <26> mesuagium Franciscus Stradlyng modo de nobis libere per redditum illum tenet / Ac totum illum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum et sex denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento de Templestrete predicta quod <27> Thomas Launedonne de nobis modo libere tenet per illum redditum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum quinque solidorum per annum exeuntem de duobus tenementis scituatis in Berelene et Templestrete predicta <28> que quidem tenementa Johannes Sprynge modo de nobis libere tenet per

<sup>1</sup> *Iynk'* or *Iyuk'*: I have been unable to discover the meaning of this word. It is probably a surname.

<sup>2</sup> *Johannes* in MS.

redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duodecim denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio cum suis pertinenciis in <29> Templestrete predicta quod quidem mesuagium cum suis pertinenciis Henricus Capell miles libere de nobis tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum sex solidorum et octo denariorum per <30> annum exeuntem de vno tenemento cum pertinenciis scituato in Templestrete predicta iuxta Waterlane quod quidem tenementum Philippus Grownoll' de nobis modo libere tenet per redditum illum / Necnon totum <31> illum liberum redditum nostrum sexdecim denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio cum pertinenciis in Templestrete predicta quod quidem mesuagium Decanus et Socii nuper Collegii de Westbury nuper de <32> nobis libere tenuerunt per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum quatuor solidorum per annum exeuntem de duobus tenementis existentibus in Berelane predicta que procuratores ecclesie <33> parochialis beate Marie Porte modo de nobis libere tenent per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis que Magister et Societas Scissorum <34> libere de nobis modo tenent per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum viginti vnus denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento ibidem cum suis pertinenciis scituato apud Berelane Ende quodquidem <35> tenementum Ricardus Sodley de nobis modo libere tenet per illum redditum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum et octo denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio nuper Domini Cobham modo <36> David Broke armigeri quodquidem mesuagium idem David Broke libere de nobis tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum et sex denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno <37> mesuagio ibidem cum pertinenciis quod procuratores ecclesie parochialis sancti Thome ibidem modo libere de nobis tenent per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum nostrum redditum quatuor denariorum per annum exeuntem <38> de vno mesuagio cum pertinenciis ibidem quod Johannes Williams libere de nobis tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duodecim denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio cum <39> pertinenciis ibidem quod Henricus Holbege modo de nobis libere tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum sex denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio cum pertinenciis ibidem quod procuratores <40> dicte ecclesie

parochialis sancti Thome libere de nobis modo tenent per illum redditum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum et vnus denarii per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis ibidem <41> que Magistri et Confratres domus sancti Marci vocate le Gaunts nuper de nobis libere tenuerunt per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum solidorum et sex denariorum per annum exeuntem <42> de vno tenemento cum pertinenciis scituato in Templestreet predicta quod quidem tenementum heredes Domine Mallet modo de nobis libere tenent per redditum illum Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum <43> duorum solidorum et sex denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento cum pertinenciis ibidem quod modo Alanus Hill de nobis libere tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duorum <44> solidorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento cum pertinenciis ibidem nuper Oliueri Kerney quod quidem Edwardus Blunte modo de nobis libere tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum <45> trium solidorum et quatuor denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno mesuagio cum pertinenciis in Portebury infra dictum comitatum nostrum Somersete quod Ricardus Taylour libere de nobis tenet per redditum illum / Aceciam totum <46> illum liberum redditum nostrum quatuor solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris et tenementis scituatis et existentibus in quodam loco ibidem vocato Olde-merkett Place infra dictam Villam siue Ciuitatem Bristollie predictam infra <47> Comitatum Ville predictae quequidem terras et tenementa Ricardus Cowgane de nobis libere tenet per redditum illum Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum decem solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris vocatis Kerles continentibus octo <48> acras in West Weston' infra comitatum nostrum Somersete predictum quas quidem terras Thomas Percivall de nobis modo libere tenet per redditum illum Damus Eciam pro consideratione predicta ac ex certa sciencia et <49> mero motu nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati duo cotagia nostra cum suis pertinenciis vocata Glouers scituata et existencia in Villa siue Ciuitate Bristollie predicta in Templestreet <50> predicta infra Comitatum Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae<sup>1</sup> modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupatione Johannis Stones vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam Rotulorum Curie dicti manerii de Templefee Aceciam duo <51> mesuagia nostra cum suis pertinenciis in Templestrete

<sup>1</sup> *predicta* in MS.

predicta in comitatu predicto modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Agnetis Hyat vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam Rotulorum dicte Curie / Ac totum illud gardinum <52> nostrum cum suis pertinenciis ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome<sup>1</sup> Thome Haywarde vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam Rotulorum Curie predictae Ac vnam paruam parcellam pasture nostre cum suis <53> pertinenciis ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura vel occupacione Margarete Hothersole per Copiam rotulorum Curie predictae / Ac vnam clausuram nostram cum tribus Rackis nostris vocatis Teynters continentem unam acram ibidem <54> modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Nesshe vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam dictorum rotulorum Curie manerii predicti Aceciam vnum clausum nostrum cum duabus Rackis nostris ibidem vocatis Taynters modo <55> vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Roberti Sexsse per Copiam dictorum Rotulorum Curie predictae Ac vnam clausuram nostram cum duobus Rackys nostris ibidem vocatis Taynters continentem vnam acram terre cum suis pertinenciis [*End of membrane 1*] ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Stones vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam Rotulorum Curie predictae / Aceciam vnam clausuram nostram cum suis pertinenciis ibidem nuper in tenura—<sup>2</sup><2> Webbys et modo siue nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Howell vel assignatorum suorum per Copiam Rotulorum dicte Curie / Damus Eciam pro consideracione predicta ac ex certa <3> sciencia et mero motu nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae quoddam fundum nostrum ibidem vocatum Lymekylnes cum suis pertinenciis <4> scituatum ibidem in Templestrete predicta modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Stones vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnam paruam parcellam pasture nostre cum suis pertinenciis <5> ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Ap Richard vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum cum suis pertinenciis ibidem in Templestrete predicta modo <6> vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Cristoferi Goldsmyth vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem cum suis pertinenciis vocatum Kent' modo vel nuper in tenura siue <7> occupacione Johannis

<sup>1</sup> *Thome* crossed out in MS.

<sup>2</sup> The Christian name is left blank both in the MS. and in the enrolment, and I have failed to find it in the Audit Books and City Rentals.

Bocher Bruer vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Aceciam vnam domum siue tenementum et vnum gardinum nostrum cum suis pertinenciis ibidem in quodam vico vocato <8> Seynt Thomas Strete modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Skelke vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Necnon duo tenementa nostra cum suis pertinenciis vniuersis scituata <9> et existencia in Templestrete predicta infra Villam predictam / Ac vnum pratum nostrum vocatum Templemede infra Villam siue Ciuitatem predictam et Comitatum eiusdem Ville modo vel nuper in tenura siue <10> occupacione Johannis Compton' vel assignatorum suorum / Aceciam omnia et singula iampna brueria moras comunias mariscos vias vacua funda aquas piscaciones Curias letas Curiarum proficua visus franci- <11> plegii seruicia<sup>1</sup> ac omnia que ad visum franciplegii pertinent seu imposterum spectare possint aut debent feoda militum Wardas maritagia escaetas releuia fines herietta bona et catalla wainata extrahuras proficua <12> commoditates emolumenta et hereditamenta nostra quecumque cuiuscumque sint generis nature vel speciei seu quibuscumque nominibus sciantur censeantur vel cognoscantur iacencia existencia proueniencia crescencia <13> siue renouancia in Ville siue Ciuitate Bristollie predicta ac infra dictum Comitatum nostrum Ville Bristollie predictae ac in Portebury et West Weston' predictis in predicto Comitatu nostro Somersete eidem manerio et ceteris <14> premissis aut alicui parcelle spectancia et pertinencia aut vt membrum pars vel parcella eiusdem manerii ac ceterorum premissorum cognita accepta habita vsitata reputata dimissa seu locata existencia modo in <15> separalibus tenuris siue occupacionibus dictorum separalium tenencium vel assignatorum suorum ac nuper dicto Prioratui siue Hospitali sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia modo dissoluto dudum spectancia <16> et pertinencia ac parcelle possessionum siue reuencionum eiusdem nuper Prioratus dudum existencia Damus Eciam pro consideracione predicta et ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris per <17> presentes concedimus Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae quandam vacuam placeam terre nostram existentem supra Pontem ville Bristollie predictae continentem <18> per estimationem in longitudine quadraginta septem pedes et in latitudine viginti tres pedes existentem infra parochiam ecclesie sancti Thome inter tenementum Dauid Harrys ex australi parte et tenementum <19> Thome Launedon' ex Boriali parte nuper

<sup>1</sup> *seruicia* interlineated over caret.

Prioratui de Wytham' in Comitatu Somersete predicto modo dissoluto dudum spectantem et pertinentem ac parcella possessionum et Reuencionum eiusdem nuper Prioratus de Wytham <20> dudum existens Aceciam Reuersionem et Reuersiones dicti Manerii et ceterorum omnium et singulorum premissorum cum eorum pertinenciis vniuersis et cuiuslibet inde parcelle Necnon omnes et <21> singulos redditus reuenciones et cetera annualia proficua quecumque reseruata super quibuscumque dimissionibus seu concessionibus premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle facta adeo plene et integre et <22> in tam amplis modo et forma prout vltimus nuper Prior sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia et vltimus Prior dicti nuper Monasterii de Wytham' aut aliquis vel aliqui predecessorum suorum priores <23> in iure nuper separalium Prioratum illorum vel antequam nuper Prioratus illi ad manus nostras deuenerunt predicto Manerio et cetera omnia et singula premissa cum eorum pertinenciis vniuersis aut aliquam <24> inde parcellam habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuit aut debuerunt Et Adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma <25> prout ea omnia et singula ad manus nostras ratione vel pretextu alicuius Carte doni Concessionis confirmationis vel sursumreddicionis per dictos nuper seperales Priores dictorum nuper seperalium <26> Prioratum sub seperalibus sigillis suis Conuentialibus nobis inde confecti aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius actus parliamenti vel aliter quocumque modo deuenerunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in manibus <27> nostris iam existunt aut existere deberent aut debent / Damus Eciam pro consideratione predicta ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori <28> Burgensibus et Communitati ville siue Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae omnia illa liberos redditus terras et tenementa nostra subsequencia iacencia existencia et percipienda infra Ciuitatem et Comitatum Ville siue <29> Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae et infra Suburbia et libertates eiusdem Necnon infra Hundredum de Barton' infra Comitatum nostrum Gloucestrie nuper per nos perquisita de dicto Vicecomite Lysley videlicet totum <30> illum liberum redditum nostrum viginti trium solidorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento vocato le Starre infra predictam Villam siue Ciuitatem Bristollie predictae in quodam vico ibidem vocato the Hiestrete ac <31> totum illum liberum redditum nostrum viginti vnius solidorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento vocato the Whyteharte ibidem in eodem vico / Aceciam totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem

in quodam vico <32> vocato Brodstreett modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Attwood vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem vocatum 'le Whyte Lyon' iacens et existens in vico predicto vocato <33> Brodstreat modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Spryng vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Tristram Lewker vel <34> assignatorum suorum / Necnon totum illum liberum redditum nostrum sex solidorum et octo denariorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento iacenti in quodam vico ibidem vocato Seynt Mary Streat nunc<sup>1</sup> seu nuper in <35> tenura siue occupacione Johannis Northall / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum duodecim denariorum per annum exeuntem de quodam tenemento ibidem iacenti in quodam vico vocato Wynestreate / Aceciam vnum <36> tenementum nostrum iacens in eodem vico de Wynestreat modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Morgani Smythe vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum et vnum <37> pauimentum nostrum iacencia in dicto vico ibidem vocato Wynestreate infra eandem Ciuitatem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Moore vel assignatorum suorum / Aceciam totum liberum redditum <38> nostrum quatuor solidorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris iacentibus in quodam vico ibidem vocato Christmas Streat libere de nobis tentis per redditum illum ac pertinentibus Cantarie sancti Laurencii infra Ciuitatem <39> Bristollie predictam / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum sex solidorum et octo denariorum per annum exeuntem de quodam alio tenemento iacenti ibidem in eodem vico vocato Christmas Streat modo vel nuper in tenura <40> siue occupacione Thome Yate vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum paruum tenementum nostrum ibidem vocatum a Storehowse modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Griffini Jones vel assignatorum suorum <41> ad voluntatem nostram / Necnon totum illum liberum redditum nostrum quatuor solidorum per annum exeuntem de vno tenemento iacenti in Fyssherslane ibidem quod quidem tenementum Nicholas Thorne modo de <42> nobis libere tenet per redditum illum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum quinque solidorum per annum exeuntem de duobus tenementis iacentibus in eodem vico vocato Fyssherslane Quequidem duo tenementa <43> Johannes Rodney Armiger modo de nobis libere tenet per eundem redditum / Ac totum illum liberum redditum nostrum decem solidorum per annum

<sup>1</sup> *nunc* written over an erasure.

exeuntem de vno tenemento existenti in quodam vico ibidem vocato <44> Cornestreat nuper in tenura Johannis Cradock / Ac quendam quietum redditum nostrum quinque solidorum per annum exeuntem de terris pertinentibus Gardianis Capelle iacentibus super le Back soluendum annuatim per <45> Gardianos Capelle predictae / Aceciam vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem scituatum in dicto vico vocato Cornestreat modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Rameswell ad voluntatem nostram / Ac <46> aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Lyons ad voluntatem nostram / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici <47> Felde ad voluntatem nostram / Aceciam vnum tenementum nostrum cum pertinentiis ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Hyggons vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum <48> cum pertinentiis in Ratclyff Streate ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Walker ad voluntatem nostram / Ac totum illud fundum siue pauimentum ibidem continens per estimacionem <49> unam perticatam modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Payne ad voluntatem nostram / Aceciam aliud tenementum nostrum cum pertinentiis ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome <50> Hopkyns ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum gardinum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Roberti Goodwyn' ad voluntatem nostram / Aceciam vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem cum suis pertinentiis <51> vocatum le Fawcone scituatum in vico predicto vocato Ratclyff Streate modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Lobyngton' vel assignatorum suorum / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper <52> in tenura siue occupacione Thome Sadler vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnam parvam domum nostram ibidem vocatam a lodge cum vno paruo gardino nostro adiacenti Ac vnum tenementum nostrum cum pertinentiis <53> ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Salt vel assignatorum suorum Aceciam duo tenementa nostra sub uno tecto ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Cutler vel assignatorum <54> suorum Necnon quendam liberum redditum nostrum tresdecim solidorum et quatuor denariorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris iacentibus ibidem que modo Dominus Cobham libere de nobis tenet per redditum illum [*End of membrane 2*] Ac Totum illum liberum siue quietum redditum nostrum sex solidorum et octo



denariorum per annum exeuntem de certis terris quas Gardiani ecclesie sancti Laurencii ibidem de nobis [modo]<sup>1</sup> libere tenent <2> per redditum illum / Aceciam totum illud mesuagium siue magnum tenementum nostrum in Ville siue Ciuitate Bristollie predictae modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Edwardi Dyer Necnon <3> quendam liberum redditum nostrum viginti octo solidorum per annum exeuntem de tribus tenementis ibidem nuper Johannis [Rodneys] scituatis ibidem versus lez Barres / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum <4> iacens ibidem in Templestrete predicta modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Cobler vel assignatorum suorum ad voluntatem nostram / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem in eodem vico <5> vocato Templestrete modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Ranulphi Ebelluck ad voluntatem nostram Ac Totum illud alium tenementum nostrum in dicto eodem vico modo vel nuper <6> in tenura siue occupacione Georgii Walker ad voluntatem nostram / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum in eodem vico [adiacens cimiterio de] Templechurche ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue <7> occupacione Johannis Sherman' ad voluntatem nostram / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Ricardi Edmundys ad voluntatem nostram / Ac <8> vnum aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Saunders ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum siue cotagium nostrum in eodem <9> vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Tristram Jenkys ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Davys <10> ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem in dicto vico cum paruo gardino eidem adiacenti modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Hyttall / Ac vnum aliud tenementum <11> nostrum cum paruo gardino eidem adiacenti scituatum et iacens in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Holbeck vel assignatorum suorum / Ac duo tenementa nostra in eodem vico <12> nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Morgayn' vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum gardinum nostrum cum le Rack' in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Tucker vel <13> assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum clausum pasture nostre iacens in Bristollia predicta iuxta le Barres ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura Rogeri Jones ad voluntatem

<sup>1</sup> The words enclosed in square brackets are illegible in the original, and have been supplied from the enrolment in the P.R.O.

nostram / Ac vnam pasturam <14> nostram continentem per estimacionem quatuor acras iacentem super le Radclyffe Bryge ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura Relicte Thome Smythe ad voluntatem nostram / Ac quoddam pratum ibidem continens <15> quinque acras et dimidiam iacens in Radclyff' meade extra Ciuitatem predictam ei 'infra libertates eiusdem Ciuitatis modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Fawconer ad voluntatem nostram <16> ac duas acras et dimidiam pasture iacentes apud Michell Hill modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Rogeri Jones ad voluntatem nostram Ac Vnum Capitale mesuagium siue tenementum <17> nostrum cum duobus gardinis nostris et quatuor acras et dimidiam terre iacentes infra precinctum unius muri inclusas iacencia et existencia infra Villam siue Ciuitatem Bristollie predictam in Michell Hill <18> modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Kenne armigeri vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum cum gardino et Columbin' nostris cum suis pertinenciis iacens et existens <19> in parochia Sancti Michaelis ibidem infra Suburbias Ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Nicholai Thorne vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum gardinum <20> nostrum in Muckbrigge in Villa siue Ciuitate predicta modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Vaughani ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum aliud gardinum nostrum in Muckbridge predicto <21> in Villa siue Ciuitate Bristollie predicta modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Care vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum scituatum in Tokerstrete infra Villam siue <22> Ciuitatem Bristollie predictam modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Fawconer ad voluntatem nostram / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum scituatum in Tokerstrete predicta modo vel nuper in <23> tenura siue occupacione Johannis ap Harrys ad voluntatem nostram Ac Aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Rosse vel assignatorum suorum / Ac <24> vnum tenementum nostrum scituatum in quodam vico vocato Smalle streate infra villam siue Ciuitatem predictam modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Phillips ad voluntatem nostram / Ac <25> vnum gardinum scituatum et iacens in quodam vico ibidem vocato Saint Thomas Streate modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione [David] ap Harrys ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum <26> ibidem in eodem vico vocato Seynt Thomas Strete modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Edwardi Sadler ad

voluntatem nostram Aceciam duo gardina nostra cum vna domo nostra vocata <27> le Slawghtherhowse in eodem vico vocato Seynt Thomas Strete modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Williams vel assignatorum suorum Ac vnum gardinum nostrum ibidem modo vel <28> nuper in tenura siue occupacione Rogeri Jones vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum aliud gardinum nostrum et vnam paruam domum nostram ibidem vocatam a lodge modo vel nuper in tenura siue <29> occupacione Johannis Fawconer vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum gardinum nostrum iacens in quodam vico ibidem vocato Pyllestrete modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Walteri <30> Symons ad voluntatem nostram / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum cum solario et ceteris edificiis eidem adiacentibus et pertinentibus iacens et existens in quodam vico ibidem vocato the Hiestrete modo vel nuper in <31> tenura siue occupacione Henrici Smythe vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum iacens super pontem ville Bristollie predictum modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis <32> Mathewe vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Michaelis [Draper] vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum <33> nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Henrici Whyte vel assignatorum suorum Aceciam duo alia tenementa nostra ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione <34> predicti Henrici Whyte vel assignatorum suorum / Necnon duo tenementa siue mesuagia nostra cum uno gardino et cellariis et shoppis nostris eisdem mesuagiis annexis scituata infra <35> villam siue ciuitatem predictam in quodam vico ibidem vocato le Back modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Rogeri Cooke vel assignatorum suorum / Ac duo alia tenementa nostra ibidem sub <36> vno tecto modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Carye vel assignatorum suorum / Ac duo pauimenta et duo stabula nostra iacencia et existencia iuxta Crucem Sancti Petri ibidem modo vel <37> nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Williams vel assignatorum suorum / Ac duo tenementa nostra quorum vnum scituatum est in le Shameles et alterum tenementum iacens super le Wayre <38> in parochia Sancti Philippi infra Villam siue Ciuitatem predictam modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Clementis Balle vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum ibidem <39> scituatum in quodam vico vocato Seynt Nicholas Street modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Gilberti Cogane vel assignatorum suorum / Ac duo gardina nostra iacencia in quodam

vico ibidem vocato <40> Oldmarkett modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Williams vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum gardinum nostrum et vnam aliam domum nostram vocatam a lodge cum vno curtilagio et <41> pauimento iacencia et existencia iuxta Petigate infra predictam<sup>1</sup> Villam siue Ciuitatem Bristollie modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Howell vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum <42> scituatum ibidem super le Keye modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Willelmi Tyndall vel assignatorum suorum / Ac quandam aliam vacuam placeam terre nostre ibidem continentem per estimacionem <43> vnam<sup>2</sup> perticatam terre modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Roberti Newborne vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnum tenementum nostrum scituatum infra Villam siue Ciuitatem predictam in quodam <44> vico vocato Baldwynstrete cum vno gardino eidem tenemento adiacenti siue spectanti modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Raven assignati Johannis Williams vel assignatorum <45> suorum / Ac aliud tenementum nostrum ibidem in eodem vico modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Thome Tysoon' vel assignatorum suorum / Ac vnam acram pasture et duas acras prati iacentes in <46> quodam prato vocato Kynges meade in parochia ecclesie sancti Philippi infra hundredum de Barton in Comitatu Gloucestrie modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Dauid Caryer vel assignatorum <47> suorum Necnon Reuersionem et reuersiones omnium et singulorum mesuagiorum terrarum tenementorum et redditum nuper [perquisitorum]<sup>3</sup> de prefato Vicecomite Lysley et ceterorum <48> omnium et singulorum premissorum cum eorum pertinentiis vniuersis et cuiuslibet inde parcelle nuper parcelle possessionum eiusdem Vicecomitis Lysley ac per nos nuper de eodem Vicecomite Lisley perquisite <49> Aceciam omnes et singulos redditus reuenciones et cetera annualia proficua quecumque reseruata super quibuscumque dimissionibus siue concessionibus super premissis siue aliquo <50> premissorum nuper de prefato Vicecomite Lisley perquisitis aut alicuius inde parcelle factis Adeo Plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout prefatus Vicecomes Lisley aut aliquis vel aliqui antecessorum <51> suorum aut aliorum quorumque ad vsum suum proprium siue ad vsum eiusdem Vicecomitis Lisley predicta

<sup>1</sup> *predictam* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> *vnum* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> Illegible in MS. The enrolment has *per inquisitorum*, which is presumably an error.

mesuagia et cetera omnia et singula premissa cum eorum pertinentiis vniuersis aut aliquam inde parcellam habuit <52> tenuit vel gauisus fuit habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuit vel debuerunt Et Adeo Plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout ea omnia et <53> singula ad manus nostras ratione vel pretextu alicuius Carte doni concessionis sursumreddicionis confirmacionis barganie vel escambii [per] prefatum Vicecomitem Lisley sub sigillo suo nobis inde confecti aut [*End of membrane 3*] aliter quocumque modo deueniunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel deberent Quequidem Manerium [liberi] redditus mesuagia et cetera premissa vocata <2> le Templefee ac cetera omnia et singula premissa dicta nuper Prioratui siue Hospitali sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia dudum spectancia et pertinencia sunt de claro annuo valore quatuordecim librarum octo <3> solidorum et decem denariorum Et Quequidem vacua placea terre nuper parcella possessionum siue reuencionum dicti nuper Prioratus de Wytham predicti est de claro annuo valore duodecim denariorum Et <4> Quequidem omnia et singula predicta mesuagia tenementa et cetera premissa cum suis pertinentiis nuper de prefato Vicecomite Lisley per nos perquisita sunt de claro annuo valore quinquaginta septem librarum sex <5> solidorum et quatuor denariorum Habenda Tenenda percipienda et gaudenda predictum Manerium redditus mesuagia terras tenementa et cetera omnia et singula premissa superius expressa et specificata cum eorum pertinentiis <6> vniuersis prefatis Maiore Burgensibus et Communitate ville siue Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae et successoribus eorum imperpetuum tenenda de nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per seruicium quadragesime partis <7> vnius feodi Militis pro omnibus redditibus seruiciis et demandis quibuscumque proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendis soluendis vel faciendis Et Vltorius Volumus pro <8> consideratione predicta ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati et successoribus eorum quod iidem <9> Maior Burgenses et Communitas et successores sui habeant teneant et gaudeant ac habere tenere et gaudere valeant et possint infra predictum Manerium et cetera omnia et singula premissa vocata Templefee cum eorum <10> pertinentiis vniuersis et infra quamlibet inde parcellam tot talia tanta eadem huiusmodi et consimilia Curias letas visus franciplegii ac omnia que ad visus franciplegii pertinent

fines amerciamenta <11> assisam et asaiam panis vini seruicie et  
 seruicia feoda militum wardas maritagia escaetas releuia herietta  
 Nundinas marcata [tolneta] custumas ferias liberas warrenas et  
 omnia que ad liberam warrenam pertinent <12> bona et catalla  
 wainata extrahuras ac alia iura proficua libertates commoditates  
 emolumenta et hereditamenta quecumque Quot qualia quanta et  
 que predicti nuper Priores dicti nuper Prioratus siue Hospitalis  
 <13> sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia aut aliquis vel aliqui  
 Predecessorum suorum in iure nuper Prioratus aut Hospitalis  
 illius legitime habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit  
 tenuit vel <14> gauisus fuit vel habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt  
 vel debuit infra predictum Manerium ac cetera premissa eidem  
 Manerio pertinencia aut infra aliquam inde parcellam ratione vel  
 pretextu alicuius Carte doni <15> concessionis vel confirmacionis  
 aut aliquarum litterarum nostrarum patencium per nos seu per  
 aliquem progenitorum nostrorum prefato nuper Priori dicti nuper  
 Prioratus siue Hospitalis sancti Johannis <16> Jerusalem in Anglia  
 aut alicui vel aliquibus predecessorum suorum quoquomodo  
 facti vel concessi aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius legitime  
 prescripcionis vsus siue consuetudinis Damus <17> Eciam pro  
 consideracione predicta ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris  
 per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Com-  
 munitati omnia exitus redditus reuenciones et cetera annualia  
 <18> proficua quecumque predicti Manerii et ceterorum omnium  
 et singulorum premissorum cum eorum pertinenciis a festo  
 Annunciacionis beate Marie virginis vltimo preterito hucusque  
 proueniencia <19> siue crescencia Habenda eisdem Maiori  
 Burgensibus et Communitate ex dono nostro absque compoto  
 seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris  
 quoquomodo reddendo soluendo seu <20> faciendo Aceciam  
 Volumus et per presentes concedimus eisdem Maiori Burgensibus  
 et Communitati quod ipsi habeant et habebunt has litteras  
 nostras patentes sub magno sigillo nostro <21> Anglie debito modo  
 factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo magno vel paruo nobis  
 in hanaperio nostro aut alibi ad vsum nostrum proinde quo-  
 quomodo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Eo Quod Expressa <22>  
 mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissorum  
 siue eorum alicuius aut de aliis donis siue concessionibus per nos  
 prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati et eorum successori-  
 bus ante hec tempora <23> factis in presentibus minime facta  
 existit Aut aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione siue  
 restriccionem inde incontrarium facto edito ordinato siue prouiso

aut aliqua re causa vel materia quacumque in <24> aliquo non obstante In Cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium nono die Julii Anno regni nostri tricesimo sexto

Waller

*per ipsum regem virtute commissionis Regie*

[On fold] *Irro<sup>ur</sup>*

*Irro<sup>ur</sup> in me<sup>a</sup> Cur' Augmen' & Reuenc' Corone Regie  
ex parte Willelmi Berners unius Audit' eiusdem Cur'*

*T<sup>to</sup> Hillaro Anno [? regni] E vj<sup>th</sup> secundo*

*Ex' per T. Powle*

*B. Traheron*

*Nota y<sup>t</sup> a olde Rent Rowle ys within thes' letters patent*

## VII

### GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1547

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 12 July, 1 Edward VI*

*Recites and confirms the General Confirmation of 10 May, 2 Henry VIII (1510) (supra p. 82).*

*The original is no longer in the City Archives, and was missing when Latimer compiled his Calendar.*

*Enrolment: P.R.O., Conf. Roll, 1 Edward VI, pt. 5, no. 12 (mm. 2-17).*

*Seyer, Charters, 167-8; Latimer, Calendar, 142; Weinbaum, B.B.C., 40 (inaccurate).*

## VIII

### CONFIRMATION OF ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION, 1547.

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 12 July, 1 Edward VI*

*Recites and confirms the Letters Patent of 22 October, 1 Edward IV (1461) concerning Admiralty jurisdiction. (See vol. ii, pp. 132-6.)*

*The original appears to be missing. Weinbaum (B.B.C. 40) found it in the Confirmation Rolls, but confused it with the general confirmation of the same date (supra p. ). Other writers have not noticed it. It was enrolled on P.R.O. Confirm. Roll, 1 Edward VI, pt. 5, no. 13 (m. 2), and, according to an entry there, was issued "pro viginti solidis solut' in hanaperio." The general confirmation of the same date also confirmed the same instrument.*

## IX

## GRANT OF THE CHAPEL ON THE BRIDGE, 1548

*Letters Patent of 5 September, 2 Edward VI*

*In return for a gift of £51, and by the advice of Edward, Duke of Somerset, Protector of the realm, and of his other Councillors, the King grants to the city in perpetuity the Chapel of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, situated on Bristol bridge, and lately belonging to a Fraternity dissolved by a statute of the previous year.<sup>1</sup> The grant is to comprise the building, site and lead, together with the chamber built under the chapel, and with all the revenues, ornaments, goods and chattels of the foundation such as were held by the Masters and Brethren of the Fraternity. The whole property is assessed at the clear annual value of 20s., and is to be held of the Crown in free burgage, not in chief, clear of all charges such as corrodies and pensions. The city is to receive all the issues of the property from the previous Easter.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01233. It consists of a single membrane, 26" wide by 16½" long; mounted on manilla paper, and in good condition apart from damage to the top margin and to the bottom fold; with decorations, including a portrait of the King, partially visible in the top margin; a seal in brown wax, loose, and in good preservation; the seal-cords missing.*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 2 Edward VI, pt. 6, m. 10.*

*Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1548-9, pp. 69-70; Latimer, Calendar, 95-6.*

*Edwardus Sextus Dei Gracia Anglie <2> Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernice*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Edward VI, c. 14.



supremum caput Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint, salutem. Sciatis quod nos pro <3> summa quinquaginta vnus librarum legalis monete Anglie ad manus Thesaurarii nostri Curie nostre Augmentacionum et reuencionum Corone nostre ad vsum nostrum per Dilectos nobis Maiorem et <4> Comunitatem Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre Bristollie soluta<sup>1</sup> vnde fatemur nos plenarie fore contentatos et persolutos eosdemque Maiorem et comunitatem et successores suos inde acquietatos <5> et exoneratos esse per presentes de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris Necnon de auisamento precharissimi Auunculi et Consiliarii nostri Edwardi Ducis Somersete persone <6> nostre Gubernatoris ac regnorum dominorum subditorumque nostrorum Protectoris et ceterorum Consiliariorum nostrorum dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori et <7> Comunitati dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre Bristollie totam illam nuper capellam et scitum nuper capelle Assumpcionis beate Marie Virginis super Pontem dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre <8> Bristollie in Comitatu Ciuitatis seu Ville Bristollie modo dissolute ac totam cameram nostram super<sup>2</sup> eandem nuper Capellam edificatam ac eidem nuper spectantem et pertinentem ac totam cooperturam plumbeam <9> et totum plumbum eiusdem nuper capelle aut super eandem existens Ac omnia et singula edificia muros parietes et alia proficua commoditates et hereditamenta nostra <10> quecumque cum pertinentijs infra scitum circuitum et procinctum<sup>3</sup> dicte nuper capelle existentia ac eidem nuper Capelle nuper spectantia et pertinentia Ac ornamenta bona et catalla nostra <11> quecumque in eadem nuper capella existentia aut eidem nuper Capelle nuper spectantia vel pertinentia Que quidem nuper Capella dudum spectabat et pertinebat nuper Fraternitati <12> Capelle Assumptionis beate Marie Virginis super Pontem dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre Bristollie Damus enim et per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori et Comunitati <13> dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville Bristollie omnia et singula premissa adeo plene libere et integre prout Magister et Confratres dicte nuper Fraternitatis aut aliqui Gubernatores vel Ministri <14> eiusdem nuper Fraternitatis et dicte Capelle seu earum alterius aut aliquis alius vel aliqui alii

<sup>1</sup> *soluta* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *modo . . . super* written in smaller hand over an erasure. *Super* must be a mistake, since there is no doubt that the chamber was under the chapel. Cf. C.T.00719 (8); and *Proc. Clifton Antiquarian Club*, iv. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Circuitum et procinctum* written over an erasure.

premissa aut aliquam inde percellam antehac habentes possidentes seu seisiti inde existentes <15> eadem vnquam habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuit Et Adeo plene libere et integre prout <16> ea omnia et singula ad manus nostras ratione vel pretextu cuiusdam actus de diuersis Cantarijs Collegiis Gildis et fraternitatibus dissoluendis et determinandis in parlamento nostro tento apud Westmonasterium anno regni nostri primo inter <17> alia edite et prouise aut aliquo alio modo iure seu titulo quocumque deueniunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel deberent Que quidem Capella et Camera ac cetera premissa cum pertinentiis <18> modo extenduntur ad clarum annuum valorem viginti solidorum. Habenda Tenenda et gaudenda predictam nuper Capellam et Cameram super eandem et cetera omnia et singula premissa superius expressa et specificata cum suis <19> pertinentiis vniuersis prefatis Maiori et Comunitati dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre Bristollie ac successoribus suis imperpetuum ad proprium opus et vsum ipsorum Maioris et Comunitatis ac successorum suorum imperpetuum Tenenda <20> de nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per fidelitatem tantum in libero Burgagio et non in Capite pro omnibus seruicijs et demandis quibuscumque proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendis soluendis vel faciendis <21> Et Vltius de vberiori gracia nostra damus ac de auisamento predicto pro consideratione predicta per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori et Comunitati<sup>1</sup> dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville nostre Bristollie omnia exitus redditus <22> reuenciones et proficua predicta nuper Capelle ac ceterorum premissorum cum pertinentiis a festo Pasche vltimo preterito hucusque prouenientia siue crescentia Habenda eisdem Maiori et Comunitati ex dono nostro absque compoto seu aliquo <23> alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Ac Eciam volumus et de ampliori gracia nostra de auisamento predicto pro consideratione predicta per presentes concedimus prefatis <24> Maiori et Comunitati dicte Ciuitatis seu Ville Bristollie ac successoribus suis quod nos heredes et successores nostri imperpetuum annuatim et de tempore in tempus exonerabimus acquietabimus et indempnes conseruabimus tam predictos <25> Maiorem et Comunitatem et successores suos quam predictam nuper Capellam et cetera premissa cum pertinentiis

<sup>1</sup> *Comunitatibus* in MS.

et quamlibet inde parcellam versus nos heredes et successores nostros et versus quascumque alias personas de <26> omnibus et omnimodis corrodijs redditibus feodis annuitatibus pencionibus porcionibus et denariorum summis ac oneribus quibuscumque de premissis aut de aliqua inde percella quoquo modo exeuntibus seu soluendis vel superinde oneratis seu <27> onerandis preterquam de seruicio superius per presentes nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris vt prefertur reseruato, Volentes enim et per presentes firmiter iniungendes precipientes tam Cancellario et generalibus Superuisoribus <28> ac Consilio dicte Curie nostre Augmentacionum et reuencionum Corone nostre quam omnibus Receptoribus Auditoribus et alijs Officiarijs et Ministris nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum quibuscumque pro tempore existentibus quod ipsi et eorum quilibet super <29> solam demonstrationem harum litterarum nostrarum patencium vel super irrotulamentum earundem absque aliquo<sup>1</sup> alio breui seu warranto a nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo impe-trando seu proseguendo plenam integram debitamque, <30> allocacionem et exoneracionem manifestam de omnibus et omnimodis huiusmodi corrodijs redditibus feodis annuitatibus pencionibus porcionibus et denariorum summis ac oneribus quibuscumque de premissis vt prefertur exeuntibus seu soluendis vel <31> superinde oneratis seu onerandis (exceptis preexceptis) prefatis Maiori et Comunitati et successoribus suis facient et de tempore in tempus fieri causabunt Et Hee Littere nostre patentes vel irrotulamentum earundem erunt <32> annuatim et de tempore in tempus tam dicto Cancellario et generalibus Superuisoribus ac Consilio Curie nostre Augmentacionum et reuencionum predicte quam omnibus Receptoribus Auditoribus et alijs Officiariis et Ministris nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum quibuscumque <33> pro tempore existentibus sufficiens warrantacio et exoneracio in hac parte, Volumus Eciam et de auisamento predicto per presentes concedimus Maiori et Comunitati quod habeant et habebunt<sup>2</sup> has litteras nostras <34> patentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie modo factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo magno vel paruo<sup>3</sup> nobis in hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad vsum nostrum proinde quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Eo Quod expressa <35> mencio de vero valore annuo aut de aliquo alio valore vel certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut

<sup>1</sup> *aliquo* written over an erasure.

<sup>2</sup> *hebeant et hebebunt* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> *peruo* in MS.

de alijs donis siue concessionibus per nos vel per aliquem Progenitorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori et Comunitati ante hec <36> tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit / Aut aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione siue restriccionem inde contrarium facto edito ordinato seu prouiso / aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non <37> obstante / In Cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes / Teste me ipso apud Leighes quinto die Septembris anno regni nostri secundo

*per breue de priuato sigillo et de data predicta auctoritate parlamenti*  
Waynewryght

## X

## GRANT OF SAINT PAUL'S FAIR, 1550

*Letters Patent of 24 May, 4 Edward VI*

*The King, of his special grace and by the advice of his Council, grants to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the city of Bristol a licence to hold an annual fair in Temple parish, which shall last for eight days, beginning on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (25 January), and whose issues and profits shall go to the city.*

*The text has been taken from the original in the possession of the Vicar and Vestry of Temple Church, Bristol (Temple MSS., no. 00016). It consists of a single membrane, 21" wide by 14" long, in good condition apart from two small patches; with decorations and elongated capitals in the upper margin, including a portrait of the King; a seal, of brown wax (in good preservation), attached by green-and-white cords threaded in lozenge-shaped pattern through the folded lower margin.*

*Enrolment: P.R.O., Pat. Roll, 4 Edward VI, pt. 2, mm. 14-15.*

*Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1549-51, p. 188.*

Edwardus Sextus Dei <2> gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernie supremum <3> caput Archiepiscopis Episcopis Ducibus Comitibus Baronibus Militibus Vicecomitibus Maioribus Constabulariis <4> Balliuis Prepositis et aliis Ministris nostris salutem. Sciatis quod

nos de gracia nostra speciali ac ex <5> certa sciencia et mero motu nostris necnon de auisamento Consilii nostri concessimus & licenciam <6> dedimus ac per presentes concedimus et licenciam damus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis <7> est Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati [Ciuitatis]<sup>1</sup> nostre Bristollie quod ipsi et successores sui annuatim imperpetuum <8> habeant et teneant ac habere et tenere possint eis et successoribus suis imperpetuum infra Ciuitatem predictam <9> vnam feriam ibidem singulis annis tenendam et custodiendam infra parochiam de Temple infra Ciuitatem <10> predictam infra bundas et limites eiusdem parochie et non alibi in dicta Ciuitate Bristollie nec in suburbiis <11> eiusdem Ciuitatis per spacium octo dierum duraturam Videlicet primo die incipiendo in die et festo Conuersionis Sancti <12> Pauli ac de eisdem die et festo per et in septem diebus proxime post idem festum sequentibus ibidem singulis annis in forma predicta imperpetuum <13> tenendam et duraturam cum omnibus et singulis amerciamentis commoditatibus priuilegiis aduantiis tolnetis stallagiis picagiis reuencionibus <14> exitibus et proficiis ad eandem feriam qualitercumque pertinentibus siue spectantibus seu de eadem prouenientibus absque aliquo compoto nobis heredibus vel successoribus [nostris] <15> inde reddendo soluendo vel faciendo nisi feria illa sit ad nocumentum aliarum feriarum vicinarum Quare volumus et per presentes concedimus quod predicti Maior [Burgenses et] <16> Communitas dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie et successores sui annuatim habeant et teneant ac habere et tenere possint imperpetuum feriam predictam absque <17> aliqua perturbacione impedimento molestacione seu grauamine nostro heredum successorum seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcumque Volumus <18> eciam et concedimus quod nullus alius Officiarius seu Minister noster nec heredum seu successorum nostrorum in aliquo se intromittat cum dicta <19> feria nec cum colleccione exituum proficuorum amerciamentorum emolumentorum et tolnetorum predictorum nisi solummodo predicti Maior Burgenses et <20> Communitas eiusdem Ville et successores sui prout decet Hiis Testibus Carissimis Consanguineis nostris Willelmo Comite Wiltes' Thesaurario <21> nostro Anglie • Johanne Comite Bedford' Custode Priuati Sigilli • Precharissimo Consanguineo nostro Willelmo Marchione Norhampton' Magno <22> Camerario nostro • Predilectis et fidelibus nostris Waltero Vicecomite Hereford • Thoma Wentworth Milite Domino Wentworth Camerario Hospicii nostri • <23> Reuerendo in Christo

<sup>1</sup> The words enclosed in square brackets are supplied from the enrolment.

patre Thoma Episcopo Eliensi • Dilectis et fidelibus nostris Willelmo Herbert Milite Magistro equorum nostrorum • Antonio Wyngefeld Milite <24> Contrarotulatore Hospicii nostri • Thoma Darcy Milite Vicecamerario nostro • & Johanne Baker Milite • Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore <25> annuo aut de aliquo alio valore vel certitudine premissorum seu eorum alicuius aut de aliis donis siue concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem <26> progenitorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Ciuitatis predicte seu predecessoribus suis ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit <27> Aut aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione siue restriccionem inde incontrarium facto edito ordinato siue prouiso Aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia <28> quacumque in aliquo non obstante In Cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes Datas per manum nostram apud Westmonasterium <29> vicesimo quarto die Maii Anno regni nostri quarto /

Ga So[uthwell]<sup>1</sup>

*per breue de priuato sigillo & data predicta auctoritate parlamenti*

## XI

### GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1559

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 1 March, 1 Elizabeth*

*Recites and confirms the General Confirmation of 12 July, 1 Edward VI, 1547 (supra p. III).*

*The original is preserved in the City Archives, C.T. 01234. It consists of nine membranes, measuring 33½" in width, and in length 25" (m. 1), 22" (mm. 2-8), and 21" (m. 9). It is in good condition, apart from some damp-spots and a few patches backed by manilla paper. There is a series of decorations in the upper margin of m. 1, which includes a full-length portrait of the Queen. The seal and cords are missing. The authenticating official was Cordell.*

<sup>1</sup> Sir Robert Southwell, Master of the Rolls, 1540-51. Ga is probably a reference intended for office use; I have not discovered its meaning. Similar signs (consisting more usually of one letter) are occasionally to be found in other patents of this period, placed immediately before the name of the authenticating official. Cf. *infra*, p. 140.

*Departmental notes :**pro viginti libris solutis in hanaperio. /**Taxat' [pro] fine xx<sup>li</sup>, N. Bacon**Examine per nos [parchment cut] et Joānē Yonge**Endorsements :**Anno Primo Eliz : 1 : March.**Queen Elizabeth 1 year 1559.**Enrolment :**P.R.O., Confirm. Roll, 1 Elizabeth, pt. 5, no. 3 (mm. 1-13)**(Incomplete; ends with the recital of 12 July, 1 Edward VI).**Seyer, Charters, 169-70; Latimer, Calendar, 142; Weinbaum, B.B.C., 40. (His reference to the enrolment is inaccurate.)*

## XII

## LICENCE IN MORTMAIN, 1569

*Letters Patent of 21 May, 11 Elizabeth*

*The Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol are empowered to acquire by purchase, gift, legacy or any other means "lands, tenements, rectories, advowsons, rents, reversions, possessions and hereditaments whatsoever" to the clear annual value of £120. They are to be allowed to hold them, or any part of them, of the King in common socage and not in chief (provided that no possessions held immediately of the King by military service are included), and are to "have, hold, and enjoy them in their dead hand" notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain or any other statute or proclamation, and without any inquisition or examination by the writ ad quod damnum<sup>1</sup> or any other writ.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T.01235. It consists of a single membrane, 22" wide by 14" long, mounted on manilla paper, so that all old endorsements are obscured; in fair condition, with some tears, holes and discolouration; several words illegible; with elongated capitals in the upper margin, and decorations which include a representation of the Queen seated on the throne; seal and seal-cords missing, the slits for the cords remaining in the folded lower margin.*

*Enrolment: P.R.O., Pat. Roll, 11 Elizabeth, pt. 2, mm. 6-7.**Latimer, Calendar, 147.*

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.* an examination by a sworn jury of the effects of alienation of land, especially to corporate owners.

Elizabeth Dei Gracia Anglie Francie <2> et Hibernie Regina fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint, Salutem. Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa <3> sciencia et mero motu nostris concessimus et licenciam dedimus ac per presentes concedimus et licenciam damus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris <4> quantum in nobis est Dilectis nobis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis Bristollie ac Successoribus suis quod ipsi siue aliquis vel aliqui eorum terras tenementa <5> Rectorias Aduocaciones Ecclesiarum redditus reuersiones possessiones et hereditamenta quecumque cum pertinentiis ad clarum annuum valorem Centum et viginti librarum <6> vltra omnia onera et reprisas iuxta verum valorem eorundem emere auipere accipere et perquirere sibi et Successoribus suis possint et possit vno aliquo tempore suis pluribus <7> aut diuersis temporibus quandocumque predictis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae vel Successoribus suis placuerit de tempore in tempus ex <8> quorumcumque largitione concessione donatione et alienacione qui ea eis dare concedere legare vel aliquo modo siue aliquibus modis alienare voluerunt vel <9> voluerit, licet teneantur vel aliqua pars eorundem teneatur de nobis in Communi Socagio et non in Capite, aut de aliquo alio siue aliquibus aliis per quecumque <10> seruicia (Exceptis tantummodo illis terris tenementis et hereditamentis quibuscumque que teneantur siue aliqua pars eorum teneatur de nobis <11> immediate in Capite vel aliter per seruicium militare.) Habenda Tenenda gaudenda et in manum mortuam sibi et Successoribus predictis vt <12> predictum est possidenda imperpetuum. Statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis edito aut aliquo statuto seu ordinacione prouisione <13> siue restriccionem inde incontrarium habito facto edito ordinato seu prouiso, aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante. Et hoc absque aliqua Inquisicione <14> siue aliquibus Inquisicionibus inde pretextu alicuius breuis seu aliquorum breuium seu mandati nostri seu aliquorum mandatorum nostrorum heredum vel Successorum nostrorum seu eorum <15> alicuius de ad quod dampnum siue alicuius alterius breuis commissionis mandati seu precepti nostri<sup>1</sup> heredum vel Successorum nostrorum in hac parte faciendi prosequendi seu <16> capiendi et in Cancellariam nostram heredum vel Successorum nostrorum seu alibi retornandi et absque aliquibus aliis litteris nostris patentibus heredum vel Successorum nostrorum de <17> in siue pro premissis seu aliquo

<sup>1</sup> *nostrum* in MS.



premissorum quouismodo impetrandis habendis seu faciendis ; Aliquibus Statutis siue Ordinacionibus incontrarium inde factis editis seu ordinatis <18> non obstantibus. Nolentes quod predicti Maior Burgenses Comunitas Ciuitatis predicte vel Successores sui racione vel occasione premissorum seu eorum alicuius per nos <19> heredes vel Successores nostros Iusticiarios Escaetores Vicecomites Balliuos seu Ministros nostros vel heredum vel Successorum nostrorum quoscumque inde impetantur <20> molestentur aut in aliquo grauentur nec eorum aliquis impetatur molestetur in aliquo seu grauetur. Et hoc absque aliquo fine seu feodo magno vel paruo in <21> Hanaperio Cancellarie nostre seu heredum vel Successorum nostrorum vel alibi ad opus nostrum vel heredum nostrorum vel eorum alicuius per premissis seu eorum <22> aliquo quoquo mo[do] reddendo soluendo seu faciendo, Eo Quod Expressa mencio de certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius per premissis seu eorum <23> concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit, aut <24> aliquo Statuto actu ordinacione prouisione proclamacione siue restriccionem incontrarium inde antehac habito facto edito ordinato seu prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa vel <25> materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante In Cuius Rei Testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipsa apud Westmonasterium <26> vicesimo primo die Maii anno regni nostri vndecimo.

Powle

*per breue de priuato sigillo [et de data predicta auctoritate parliamenti]*

### XIII

#### GRANT OF ST. THOMAS STREET MARKET, 1570

##### *Letters Patent of 11 December, 13 Elizabeth*

*The Mayor and Commonalty have in a petition to the Crown represented the distress of the region of St. Thomas Street, in the parish of St. Thomas in the city, by reason of the decay of the manufacture of woollen cloth : houses and buildings are in ruins, the inhabitants impoverished, and the almshouse and water-conduit*

there likely soon to be beyond repair. The Queen therefore grants to the Mayor and Commonalty, and to their successors in perpetuity, a market to be held in St. Thomas Street throughout every Thursday of the year, for the sale of "yarn, cloth, cattle and all other things whatsoever". The Mayor and Commonalty, and their successors for all time, are to have and enjoy for their own use, without any fee to the Queen or her successors, all the proceeds arising from the market:—all stallage, pickage, tolls and dues; all charges for the weighing of yarn and cloth and other commodities; and all the customary dues, together with fines and amercements, levied on buyers and sellers within the market.

The text<sup>1</sup> is taken from the original in the possession of the Vicar and Vestry of the church of St. Thomas the Martyr, Bristol. It consists of a single membrane, 21" wide by 15" long, in good condition, though in patches damaged by damp and fire. Decorations in the upper margin include elaborated capitals and a portrait of the Queen enthroned. The seal, in brown wax (broken and incomplete) is attached by white (? gilt) cords in the usual lozenge pattern to the folded lower margin.

Enrolment: P.R.O., Pat. Roll, 13 Elizabeth, pt. 6, mm. 4-5.

Copies: (1) G.W.B. fos. 80-80b.

- (2) C.T. 00041; certified:—*vera copia capt' ex originali et examinat' vicesimo Primo die Junii 1651 Per nos Robertum Pirry Dionicium* [?]*ony.*

Elizabeth Dei Gracia Anglie <2> Francie et Hibernie Regina fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem Cum nobis datur intelligi per Dilectos <3> Subditos nostros Maiorem et communitatem Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie Quod non solum quidem Vicus vulgariter nuncupatus Seynt Thomas Streete <4> scituatus in parochia Sancti Thome infra Ciuitatem predictam, sedeciam domus structura et edificia in eodem Vico multum in ruinam et decasum redacta<sup>2</sup> sunt <5> in multam deformacionem eiusdem partis Ciuitatis predictae, Et quod nuper inhabitantes eiusdem Vici egestate coacti ob defectum vsus confeccionis pannorum laneorum illa <6> sic [in] ruinam cadere et deuenire permiserunt Et quod quedam Domus Eleemozinaria in sustentacionem multorum pauperum scituata iuxta

<sup>1</sup> Lacunae have been supplied from the enrolment.

<sup>2</sup> *redacti* in MS.

vicum predictum, Ac quidam <7> Ca[nalis siue] aqueductus scituatus in eodem vico qui post hominum memoriam sustentacio & manutentio fuerunt precipue per Inhabitantes vici predicti modo <8> ob [pauper]tatem eorundem in statu sunt, vt in extremam ruinam breui tempore deuenire verisimile videntur si remedium inde non provideatur, Super quo <9> dicti Maior et Communitas nobis humiliter supplicauerunt vt nos munificenciam<sup>1</sup> et graciā nostram in hac parte extendere velimus <10> Nos Igitur premissa considerantes ac petitioni predicte graciose animentes, Necnon vt dicti Maior & Communitas ac Inhabitantes vici <11> predicti tam domos & edificia in eodem vico existentes quam predictam Domum Eleemozinariam et aqueductum melius supportare et manutenere valeant et <12> [possint de gracia] nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris Concessimus et per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus <13> prefatis Maiori et Communitati dicte [Ciuitatis nostre Bri]stollie et Successoribus suis Quod ipsi imperpetuum habeant et teneant ac habebunt [et] tenebunt Aceciam habere tenere et gaudere valeant et <14> possint imposterum sibi et Successoribus [suis imp]erpetuum vnum Mercatum quolibet die Jovis singulis Septimanis per totum illum diem Jovis apud predictam Ciuitatem in predicto vico <15> vocato Saynt Thomas Streete infra dic[tam paroc]hiam Sancti Thome in dicta Ciuitate Bristollie pro filo lana averijs et alijs rebus quibuscumque ibidem emendis et vendendis tenendum Concessimus <16> eciam ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus [nostris]<sup>2</sup> concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati et Successoribus suis totum Stallagium picagium <17> Theolonium et Custumas eiusdem Mercati [aut] que eidem Mercato pertinent vel pertinere debent, Aceciam omnia et omnimoda proficua et reuenciones ac theolonia et tolmeta ac ponderacionem <18> fili et lane ac aliarum rerum vendendarum siue ponderandarum<sup>3</sup> in Mercato predicto, Necnon omnia Theolonia picagia stallagia & alia iurisdicciones commoditates proficua et emolumenta quecumque in <19> et de eodem Mercato que Mercato pertinent vel pertinere deberent, Quodque predicti Maior et Communitas et Successores sui habeant et percipeant ac habere et percipere possint et valeant <20> de omnibus et singulis ad Mercatum predictum venientibus et confluentibus tot

<sup>1</sup> An erasure follows *munificenciam*.

<sup>2</sup> *nostris* omitted from original; supplied from enrolment.

<sup>3</sup> *Vendendum siue ponderandum* in MS.

tanta talia et huiusmodi Theolonia picagia stallagia et alia proficua quot qualia et quanta ad Mercatum illum pertinent <21> Ac quot quanta et qualia precepi et solui vtuntur aut debentur ratione Mercati de Emptoribus et Venditoribus in huiusmodi Mercatis [vel] in Mercato illo, Necnon omnia et singula fines <22> amerciamenta exitus et proficua de et in Mercato predicto per presentes concessa de tempore in tempus contingencia accidentia emergencia [siue] crescencia Habenda omnia et singula premissa prefatis <23> Maiori et Communitati dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis ad proprium opus et vsum ac vtilitatem eorundem Maioris et Communitatis et Successorum suorum imperpetuum absque compoto seu <24> aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Volumus eciam et per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori et Communitati Ciuitatis <25> predictae quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras patentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo magno vel paruo in hanaperio nostro ad vsum nostrum quoquo modo <26> reddendo soluendo seu faciendo Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut de alijs donis siue concessionibus per nos vel per aliquem progenitorum siue <27> predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori ac Communitati Ciuitatis predictae & Successoribus suis antehac tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit, Aliquo statuto<sup>1</sup> actu ordinacione prouisione proclamacione siue restriccionem <28> incontrarium inde antehac facto edito ordinato siue prouiso, Aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante In Cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes <29> Teste me ipsa apud Gorhamburye vndecimo die Decembris Anno regni nostri Tercio-decimo

*per breue de priuato sigillo et de data predicta auctoritate parlamenti,*

Powle

<sup>1</sup> An erasure follows *statuto* in MS.

## XIV

## GRANT OF LIBERTIES, 1581

*Letters Patent of 28 July, 23 Elizabeth*

The Queen recites almost the whole of the Charter of 1499, omitting those passages which do not directly concern the Aldermen,<sup>1</sup> and adds that since the city is now "large and populous" and has proved its loyalty to the Crown, the number of its Aldermen shall be increased from six to twelve, including the Recorder. All except the Recorder are to be chosen within a year by the Mayor and Common Council. In this and all other respects (apart from the omissions just noted) this instrument merely repeats the provisions of 1499 in roughly the same words.<sup>2</sup> The only difference is that vacancies on the bench of Aldermen caused by dismissal are to be filled from ex-Mayors or, failing them, from "others of the older and graver" Common Councilmen. But in the case of vacancies created by other causes, the old rule<sup>3</sup> of election from "the more worthy and circum-spect burgesses" is to prevail.

The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01236. It consists of three skins of parchment, 31½" in width, and in length 26" (mm. 1 and 2), and 22½" (m. 3). In good condition, apart from a few damp-spots and a hole in the upper margin of m. 2. There are elaborated capitals and decorations (including a portrait of the Queen enthroned) on the top margin of m. 1. A broken and incomplete seal in brown wax is attached by white (? gilt) cords threaded through the folded lower margin in lozenge shaped pattern.

*Endorsement:* [In a contemporary hand] Queen Elizabeth 28 July 1581 vicesimo tertio [Aded?] more Aldermen

*Enrolment:* P.R.O., Pat. Roll, 23 Elizabeth pt. 3, mm. 1-5.

Seyer, *Charters*, 171-201; M.C.R. 1158; Latimer, *Calendar*, 147.

Elizabeth Dei Gracia Anglie Francie Et Hibernie <2> Regina fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem Cum dominus Henricus Septimus nuper Rex Anglie Auus noster precharissimus per litteras suas patentes sub magno

<sup>1</sup> I.e. these letters patent omit the whole of the concluding portion of the charter of 1499, vol. ii, p. 175, line 54 *et seq.*, apart from the clause which reserves the fines from gaol-delivery to the Crown (*ibid.*, p. 187, lines 33-37).

<sup>2</sup> *Sex* becomes *duodecem*, and *Villa* becomes *Ciuitas*, and there are a number of verbal and orthographical changes of no importance.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. vol. ii, p. 170.

Sigillo suo Anglie <3> confectas Gerentes datum apud Knoll' decimo septimo die Decembris anno regni sui quintodecimo inter alia recitauerit quod . . . [*Here follows a recital of the Charter of 1499, with the omissions already noted,*<sup>1</sup> *which continues to membrane 2, line 24*] . . . prout per predictas literas patentes prefata Maiori et Comunitati predictae Ville Bristollie confectas inter alia plenius liquet et apparet Quequidem <25> Villa Bristollie postea in Ciuitatem Bristollie erecta et perfecta fuit sicuti adhuc Ciuitas extat et remanet Nos Igitur Considerantes quod eadem Ciuitas nostra Bristollie sit Ciuitas ampla et populosa <26> ac volentes quod de cetero certus et indubitatus modus in eadem Ciuitate nostra Bristollie de et super Custodia pacis nostre ac Regimine et gubernacione populi nostri ibidem continue habeatur et vt Ciuitas illa <27> perpetuis futuris temporibus sit et permaneat Ciuitas pacis et quietis ad formidinem et terrorem malorum et in premium bonorum Aceciam vt pax nostra ceteraque facta iusticie absque ulterioris dilacionis diffugio ibidem custodiri <28> et fieri valeant perpendentesque fidelitatem et obsequia que Cives Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie nobis hucusque gratis in omnibus exhibuerunt et parati fuerunt De Gracia Nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero <29> motu nostris Concessimus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes Concedimus Maiori et Comunitati eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie et successoribus suis quod de cetero <30> sint et erunt in eadem Ciuitate Bristollie de tempore in tempus imperpetuum duodecim Aldermanni modo et forma sequentibus nominandi et eligendi creandi et preficiendi videlicet quod Recordator predictae Ciuitatis <31> Bristollie qui nunc est Recordator Ciuitatis illius ac quilibet alius Recordator Ciuitatis illius pro tempore existens perpetuis futuris temporibus ac imperpetuum de tempore in tempus erit vnus dictorum <32> duodecim Aldermannorum Et quod residui vndecem Aldermanni eorundem duodecem Aldermannorum per Maiorem et comune Consilium Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie pro tempore existentes ad eorum libitum infra vnum <33> Annum datum presencium proxime sequentem eligantur et nominantur Quiquidem Nunc Recordator in Aldermannum sit nominatus ac quilibet Recordator Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie de cetero de tempore in <34> tempus eligendus siue fiendus tempore admissionis sue in officium Recordatoris Ciuitatis illius coram Maiore eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie pro tempore existenti sacramentum prestabit corporale quod ipse quamdiu

<sup>1</sup> See *supra*, p. 125 n.1.

<35> officium Recordatoris eiusdem Ciuitatis habuerit et exercuerit ibidem existens omnia et singula que ad officium Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius pertinebunt facienda et exercenda bene et fideliter faciet exequetur <36> et exercebit et tam predicti vndecem Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis primo et proxime eligendi et nominandi quam quilibet alius Aldermannus eiusdem Ciuitatis imposterum eligendus siue nominandus cum exnunc <37> electi prefecti et creati fuerint sacramentum suum corporale de officio Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius bene et fideliter seperatim faciendo exercendo et exequendo quamdiu in officio Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis <38> steterint Ac Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius extiterint coram Maiore et Recordatore Ville predicte pro tempore existentibus in huiusmodi creacione nominacione eleccione et perfeccione in officium Aldermanni <39> Ciuitatis illius prestabunt et quilibet eorum prestabit quod tam ijdem duodecem Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius exnunc primo eligendi et eorum quilibet quam quilibet alius Aldermannus eiusdem Ciuitatis <40> imposterum de tempore in tempus eligendus siue nominandus postquam sic electi prefecti et iurati fuerint habeant et quilibet eorum habeat infra Ciuitatem predictam libertatem et procinctum eiusdem quamdiu <41> officium vnus Aldermanni dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie habuerunt et exercuerunt consimiles potestates et iurisdicciones in omnibus et per omnia quales Aldermanni siue aliquis Aldermannus Ciuitatis <42> nostre London' infra eandem Ciuitatem London' habent exercent aut exequuntur Et Volumus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis nunc Maiori et Comunitati <43> dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie et successoribus suis quod Maior et Aldermanni dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie pro tempore existentes siue eorum maior pars possit et possint de tempore in tempus perpetuis futuris <44> temporibus per eorum discrecionem amouere et deponere aliquem vel aliquos de dictis vndecem Aldermannis Ciuitatis Bristollie pro tempore existentibus quociens et quandocumque eis placuerit et alium vel alios <45> de probioribus Ciuibus eiusdem Ciuitatis qui prius<sup>1</sup> officium Maioris Ciuitatis illius gesserunt et habuerunt Ac pro defectu huiusmodi Ciuium qui officium Maioris eiusdem Ciuitatis gesserunt tunc de aliis <46> senioribus et grauissimis Ciuibus eiusdem Ciuitatis existentibus de comuni Consilio eiusdem Ciuitatis loco ipsius<sup>2</sup> sic amoti vel ipsorum sic amotorum in Aldermannum vel

<sup>1</sup> This provision, *qui prius . . . loco ipsius*, is not made in the charter of 1499.

<sup>2</sup> *loco ipsius* written over erasure.

Aldermannos eiusdem Ciuitatis de <47> nouo eligere creare et preficere qui in Aldermannum vel Aldermannos Ciuitatis illius per Maiorem et Aldermannos Ciuitatis illius pro tempore existentes vel per eorum maiorem partem electi nominati consimile <48> sacramentum coram Maiore et Recordatore Ciuitatis illius pro tempore existentibus prestabunt modo et forma prout predicti duodecem Aldermanni vt predictum est primo extunc eligendi facient et prestabunt <49> Et quod quodcumque et quocienscumque aliquis Aldermannus predictus de tempore in tempus eligendus et nominandus obieret seu ab huiusmodi officio suo recesserit vel ex quacumque causa ab officio Aldermanni Ciuitatis <50> illius Bristollie amotus fuerit quod extunc et tociens bene licebit Maiori et aliis Aldermannis Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae pro tempore existentibus tunc superuiuentibus et remanentibus per ipsos seu maiorem partem <51> eorum alium vel alios de probioribus et circumspcctis Burgensibus eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie loco ipsius sic decedentis recedentis vel amoti vel ipsorum sic<sup>1</sup> decedentium recedentum vel amotorum in Aldermanno vel Aldermannis Ciuitatis illius eligere <52> preficere et creare quociens opus fuerit et casus exigerit Quiquidem sic vt premittitur electi et prefecti consimile sacramentum prestabunt eisdem modo et forma prout alii predicti Aldermanni <53> exnunc primo eligendi facient et prestabunt Quodque omnes et singuli Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius Bristollie de cetero futuris temporibus perpetuis modo et forma predictis eligendi nominandi siue <54> preficiendi postquam in officio Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis electi prefecti et iurati fuerint habeant et quilibet eorum habeat in Ciuitate Bristollie predicta ac infra procinctum et libertatem eiusdem Ciuitatis <55> Bristollie consimiles auctoritates et potestates quam diu in officio Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius steterint aut officium Aldermanni Ciuitatis illius habuerint et exercuerint quales Aldermanni Ciuitatis <56> nostre London' infra eandem Ciuitatem London' habent exercent et exequuntur Et Vltcrius Concedimus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris predictis eisdem Maiori et comunitati predictis <57> Ciuitatis Bristollie et successoribus suis per presentes quod de cetero Maior et Recordator eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie qui nunc sunt et qui pro tempore erunt ac predicti vndecem Aldermanni de tempore in <58> tempus vt predictum est eligendi et eorum successores et eorum quilibet cum vt premittitur electi prefecti et creati fuerint quamdiu Aldermanni Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie steterint et extiterint sint

<sup>1</sup> sic . . . illius eligere written in smaller hand over an erasure.



coniunctim et <59> diuisim Custodes ac Iusticiarij pacis nostre heredum et successorum nostrorum ac Iusticiarij nostri heredum et successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram heredum et successorum nostrorum infra predictam Ciuitatem nostram <60> Bristollie Libertatem Comitatum eiusdem Ciuitatis et Procinctum eiusdem tam per terram quam per aquam conseruandam ac Iusticiarij nostri heredum et successorum nostrorum ad omnia ordinaciones et statuta apud Winton' <61> Northampton' et Westmonasterium pro conseruacione pacis nostre Necnon ad statuta et ordinaciones ibidem et alibi de venatoribus<sup>1</sup> operarijs artificibus seruitorijs hostellarijs ponderibus mensuris vendicionibus <62> victualium mendicantibus et vacabundis et alijs hominibus mendicantibus qui se nominant trauelinge men ac ad statuta et ordinaciones apud Westmonasterium annis regni predicti Henrici quarti <63> primo et secundo de liberatis signorum societatum Militibus Armigeris seu valettis ac alijs liberatis pannorum minime dandis nec eisdem liberatis aliquialiter vetendis Necnon ad predictum statutum contra Lollardos <64> in parlamento predicti nuper regis Henrici quinti apud Leic' predicto nuper tento editum, ac ad statutum de controfactura tonsura lotura et alia falsitate monete terre nostre similiter editum ac ad omnia alia statuta <65> et ordinaciones pro bono pacis et quieto regimine et gubernacione populi nostri edita ac imposterum edenda in omnibus suis articulis iuxta omnem vim formam et effectum eorundem in <66> dicto Comitatu Ciuitatis Bristollie ac infra eandem Ciuitatem libertatem et procinctum eiusdem tam per terram quam per aquam custodienda et custodiri facienda et ad omnes illos quos contra formam ordinacionum <67> et statutorum predictorum aut eorum alicuius delinquentes inuenerint castigandos et puniendos castigariue et puniri faciendos prout secundum formam ordinacionum et statutorum eorundem fuerit <68> faciendum et ad omnes illos qui aliquibus de populo nostro infra Comitatum Ciuitatem et Libertatem Bristollie predictos minas fecerint de corporibus suis vel de incendio domorum suarum ad sufficientem <69> securitatem de pace et bono gestu suo erga nos heredes et successores nostros pro tempore existentes et cunctum populum nostrum inueniendam coram eis per debitam<sup>2</sup> legis formam venire [*End of membrane 2*] faciendum

<sup>1</sup> *venatoribus* :—the reference here is to the statutes of 13 Richard II, St. I, c. 13, and 1 Henry VII, c. 7 concerning hunting. In a similar passage the word is mistakenly transcribed *vendatoribus* in *vol. ii*, p. 171, l. 25.

<sup>2</sup> *debitum* in MS.

et si huiusmodi securitatem inuenire recusauerint tunc ad eos in prisonis nostris Comitatus et Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae quousque huiusmodi securitatem inuenerint saluo custodiri faciendum Volumus Eciam et per presentes <2> concedimus prefatis nunc Maiori et Comunitati dicte Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie heredibus et successoribus suis quod dicti Maior Recordator et alii vndecem Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis pro tempore existentes vndecem decem nonem octo <3> septem sex quinque quatuor et tres eorum quorum Maior vel Recordator eiusdem Ciuitatis pro tempore existens omnino erit vnus de tempore in tempus perpetuis futuris temporibus sint et erunt Iusticiarij nostri heredum <4> et successorum nostrorum ad inquirendum per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum de Comitatu et Ciuitate Bristollie predicto tam infra libertates quam extra per quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit de omnibus <5> prodicionibus murdris raptibus<sup>1</sup> mulierum et alijs felonijs quibuscumque ac de quibuscumque transgressionibus riotis routis conuenticulis illicitis imbraciarijs manutenencijs ambidextris extorcionibus confederacionibus <6> conspiracionibus transgressionibus regraturijs et Forstallarijs infra Comitatum Ciuitatem procinctum et libertatem Bristollie predicta per quoscumque et qualitercumque factis siue perpetratis et exnunc fieri siue perpetrari contingent <7> Eteciam de hijs qui in insidijs ad Gentem nostram mahemiandam vel interficiendam iacuerint seu exnunc iacere presumpserint, Eteciam de hijs qui capicijs et alijs liberatis de vnica secta per confederacionem<sup>2</sup> et pro <8> manutencijs contra defensionem ac formam aliquorum ordinacionum siue statutorum inde antehac tempora factorum in Comitatu Ciuitate et libertate Bristollie predictis vsi fuerint et alijs huiusmodi capicijs et liberatis <9> imposterum vtentibus Necnon de omnibus et singulis hijs qui infra Comitatum Ciuitatem procinctum et libertatem Bristollie predicta contra formam ordinacionum et statutorum predictorum seu eorum alicuius in aliquo <10> delinquerent aut exnunc aliquid contrarium inde attemptare presumpserint Necnon ad inquirendum de quibusdam Vicecomitibus Balliuis Constabularijs ac Custodibus Gaolarum qui infra Comitatum <11> Ciuitatem procinctum et libertatem Bristollie predicta in execucione officiorum suorum erga Artifices seruitores laboratores vitellarios hostellarios Mendicantes et vacabundos et alios predictos quoscumque iuxta formam

<sup>1</sup> *raptibus* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> In a similar passage *confederacionem* is mistakenly transcribed *consideracionem* in vol. ii, p. 172, l. 35.

ordinacionum et <12> statutorum predictorum indebite se habuerint et extunc<sup>1</sup> indebite se habere presumpserint aut tepidi remissi vel negligentes fuerint et exnunc tepidos remissos vel negligentes fore contigerit Et De Omnibus et singulis articulis et circumstancijs <13> premissa omnia et singula qualitercumque concernentibus ac alijs contra formam ordinacionum et statutorum predictorum per quoscumque et qualitercumque factis siue perpetratis et que exnunc ibidem fieri vel attemptari <14> contigerit plenius veritatem Necnon ad omnia indictamenta quecumque tam coram eisdem Iusticiarijs nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum seu eorum aliquibus aut alijs nuper Custodibus pacis et Iusticiarijs <15> nostris aut predictorum nuper Regum Edwardi quarti Edwardi quinti aut predicti Ricardi nuper Regis Anglie tercij ad huiusmodi transgressionem et malefacta in Comitatu Ciuitate libertate et procinctu predictis <16> audienda et terminanda assignatis virtute diuersarum literarum patencium nostrarum aut dictorum Dominorum Edwardi Edwardi et Ricardi seu eorum alicuius eis ac alijs quibuscumque personis in Comitatu Ciuitate<sup>2</sup> <17> libertate et procinctu eisdem facta capta et nondum terminata, quam coram predictis Maiore Recordatore et Aldermannis vndecem decem nonem octo septem sex quinque quatuor et tribus eorum quorum Maior vel <18> recordator eiusdem Ciuitatis pro tempore existens erit vnus Iusticiarijs nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum<sup>3</sup> capta vel capienda inspicienda ac ad processum inde ac processus versus omnes illos quos coram eisdem Iusticiarijs <19> nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum de premissis vel aliquo premissorum de cetero indictari contigerit, quousque capiantur reddantur vel vtlagantur facienda et continuanda, Necnon ad omnia <20> et singula que contra formam ordinacionum et statutorum predictorum seu in eneruacionem eorundem seu eorum alicuius infra Comitatum Ciuitatem libertatem et procinctum Bristollie predictos facta perpetrata<sup>4</sup> <21> seu attemptata fuerint et que ibidem imposterum fieri perpetrari seu attemptari contigerit tam ad sectam nostram quam aliorum quorumcumque coram eisdem Iusticiarijs pro nobis heredibus aut successoribus nostris <22> aut pro seipsis conqueri vel prosequi volencium audienda ac secundum

<sup>1</sup> *predictorum indebite se habuerint* written over an erasure; *et extunc* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> *Ciuitate* written over an erasure.

<sup>3</sup> *Iusticiarijs . . . nostrorum* written in smaller hand over an erasure.

<sup>4</sup> At this point there is added in the right-hand margin in a later hand *Audiendum et terminandum*.

legem et consuetudinem regni nostri Anglie ac iuxta formam ordinacionum et statutorum predictorum terminanda in tam amplis modo et forma <23> prout aliqui alij Iusticiarij pacis nostre heredum et successorum nostrorum ac aliqui alij Iusticiarij nostri heredum et successorum nostrorum alibi in aliquo alio Comitatu regni nostri Anglie audire et terminare possint seu <24> poterint Necnon transgressiones et forstallaria predicta ac omnia alia superius ad terminanda non declarata ad sectam nostram tantum, et omnia alia que virtute aliquorum ordinacionum et statutorum per Custodes <25> pacis nostre heredum et successorum nostrorum ac Iusticiarios nostros heredum et successorum nostrorum huiusmodi discuti et terminari debent audienda et terminanda, et ad quoscumque contra formam ordinacionum <26> et statutorum predictorum seu eorum alicuius delinquentes per fines redempciones et amerciamenta ac alio modo pro delictis suis castigandos et puniendos prout ante ordinacionem de punicione corporali <27> huiusmodi delinquentium pro delictis suis exhibendis factam, fieri consuevit alibi infra regnum Anglie pertinent seu pertinebunt facienda aut exercenda audienda seu terminanda Et Quod Maior et <28> Comunitas predictae Ciuitatis Bristollie pro tempore existentes et successores sui imperpetuum habeant<sup>1</sup> ac omnimoda et singula fines redempciones exitus forisfactura et amerciamenta coram prefatis Iusticiarijs <29> et eorum quolibet de tempore in tempus perpetuis futuris temporibus duraturis facienda assidenda forisfacienda et adiudicanda Et Quod Bene licebit eisdem Maiori et Comunitati et successoribus suis <30> de tempore in tempus quociens opus fuerit omnia et singula huiusmodi exitus forisfactura fines redempciones ac amerciamenta adiudicata et adiudicanda siue assidenda per Vicecomites aut alios <31> Ministros eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie qui nunc sunt et qui pro tempore erunt ad opus dictorum nunc Maioris et Comunitatis Ciuitatis Bristollie et successorum suorum colligere et leuare ac seipsos in seisinam et <32> possessionem de eisdem ponere possint prout Vicecomites Officiarij vel Ministri nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum ea parte pro nobis heredibus aut successoribus nostris possint potuissent vel deberent <33> ad opus nostrum heredum et successorum nostrorum percipere et leuare si ea predictis Maiori et Comunitati Ciuitatis Bristollie predictis et successoribus suis concessa non fuissent absque aliquo compoto <34> aut aliquo alio nobis heredibus seu successoribus nostris inde reddendo faciendo seu soluendo Et

<sup>1</sup> Presumably *omnia* is omitted after *habeant*.

Quod Nec Thesaurarius noster heredum aut successorum nostrorum et Barones de Scaccario nostro <35> heredum vel successorum nostrorum nec Barones scaccarij nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum, nec eorum aliquis nec aliqui alij Iusticiarij officarij vel Ministri nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum <36> de cetero facient seu fieri facient aliquem processum vel aliquos processus versus huiusmodi Iusticiarios pacis aut aliquos siue aliquem Iusticiariorum predictorum seu <37> aliquem successorum suorum heredum vel executorum suorum<sup>1</sup> vel eorum alicuius pro aliquibus extractibus<sup>2</sup> suis de aliquibus finibus redempcionibus exitibus forisfacturis seu amerciamentis <38> aut aliquibus alijs coram predictis Iusticiarijs nostris heredum aut successorum nostrorum Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae adiudicatis forisfactis siue assessis aut imposterum adiudicandis forisfaciendis <39> vel assidendis ad aut in scaccarium nostrum seu alibi liberandis liberarie faciendis. Et Quod Aliqui alij Iusticiarij pacis nostre heredum aut successorum nostrorum aut aliqui alij Iusticiarij <40> nostri heredum aut successorum nostrorum ad aliquos ordinaciones et statuta de premissis vel aliquo premissorum edita seu ordinata infra Ciuitatem Comitatum libertatem et procinctum <41> Bristollie predictos emergentia siue contingentia aut ad aliquod officium de aut pro eisdem seu eorum aliquibus ibidem exercendum faciendum seu exequendum in aliquo ibidem se non intromittant nec eorum <42> aliquis se non intromittat aut aliquam iurisdictionem inde habeant vel exercent Et<sup>3</sup> Quod Maior Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae pro tempore existens et successores sui pro tempore <43> existentes quamdiu Maiores Ciuitatis predictae extiterint Recordator eiusdem Ciuitatis pro tempore existens quamdiu Recordator Ciuitatis illius extiterit ac predicti vndecem Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis et <44> successores sui quamdiu Aldermanni eiusdem Ciuitatis extiterint vndecem decem nonem octo septem sex quinque quatuor et tres eorum quorum Maior et Recordator pro tempore existentes <45> erunt duo habeant de cetero imperpetuum de tempore in tempus quociens opus fuerit in omnibus tot et tales auctoritatem et potestatem infra Ciuitatem Bristollie predictam suburbia et <46> procinctum eiusdem ea omnia et singula infra eandem Ciuitatem ac suburbia et procinctum<sup>4</sup> predicta ac eisdem modo et forma facienda exercenda

<sup>1</sup> *heredes vel executores suos* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *extractibus* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> At this point there is omitted the passage concerning the Chamberlain, &c., cf. *supra*, p. 125 n. 1.

<sup>4</sup> In the MS. *procinct* is followed by an erasure.

et exequenda quot et quales aliqui <47> alij Iusticiarij ad aliquas Gaolas seu Gaolam deliberandas habent exercent et exequentur vel habere exercere et exequi debebunt vel poterunt alibi infra regnum nostrum predictum <48> Saluis Semper nobis ac heredibus et successoribus nostris omnibus et singulis finibus exitibus et amerciamentis forisfacturis et alijs proficuis coram dictis Iusticiarijs <49> ad Gaolam dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie deliberandam et eorum quolibet<sup>1</sup> faciendis assidendis afferendis forisfaciendis siue adiudicandis Eo Quod Expressa mencio de vero valore annuo <50> aut de aliquo alio valore vel certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut de alijs donis siue concessionibus per nos vel per aliquem progenitorum siue predecessorum nostrorum <51> prefatis Maiori et Comunitati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie antehc tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit Aut aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione proclamacione siue <52> restriccionem inde in contrarium antehc habito facto ordinato siue prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante In Cuius Rei testimonium has <53> literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipsa apud Westmonasterium vicesimo octauo die Iulii anno regni nostri vicesimo tercio

Powle

*per breue de priuato sigillo et de data predicta etc.*

## XV

### GRANT OF THOMAS HART'S LANDS, 1584

#### *Letters Patent of 10 July, 26 Elizabeth*

*In answer to a petition from Sir James Croft, Comptroller of the Queen's Household, and in consideration of his long and faithful service, the Queen grants to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the city the following properties in Bristol and its suburbs:—a messuage and garden in Broad Street, in the tenure of George Snigge Esquire, and three other messuages there; an enclosed pasture of four acres beside Brandon Hill, in the tenure of Richard Williams, roper; six derelict tenements on Redcliffe Hill, seven derelict tenements in Burton's Lane, and three derelict tenements and one garden on St. Michael's Hill.<sup>2</sup> Woods, undergrowth and trees*

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *quolibet*.

<sup>2</sup> The names of the tenants are given in the text, *infra*, p. 136.

are included in the grant, and all the revenues and profits of the properties are to be enjoyed as fully and freely as when they were held by Thomas Hart or any other person, or by the Queen or her predecessors. The whole is to be held by the Commonalty as of the royal manor of East Greenwich, Kent, in free and common socage and not in chief or by military service,<sup>1</sup> at an annual rent of 26s. 8d., which is to be paid in equal portions at Michaelmas and Ladyday to the Exchequer or to the Receiver General of the county of Somerset.

Furthermore, the Queen, of her ampler grace, cedes in addition all issues, revenues and arrears accumulated since the properties came into the royal demesne. No account is to be rendered to the Crown, and of all fees and charges (apart from the annual rent) the city is forever acquitted. These Letters Patent or their enrolment are to be sufficient in all courts of law without further confirmation or licence.

The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 00860 (1-2), which was discovered there in 1926. It was unknown to both Seyer and Latimer. It consists of a single membrane, 29½" wide by 26" long; in fair condition apart from some holes and damp-spots; a few words illegible; <sup>2</sup> the upper margin tricked out with elongated capitals and decorations, which include a representation of the Queen seated on the throne; the seal in brown wax, broken (the fragments in a box), with black and white (? gilt) cords attached in lozenge pattern to the folded lower margin.

Endorsements: *Queene Elizabeth to S<sup>r</sup> James Croft and to the Maio<sup>r</sup> and Comunaltye*

*A patente for the Maior & Cominaltie of the [Citty ?] of Bristowe Standen*

Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 26 Elizabeth, pt. 9, mm. 33-4.

Elizabeth Dei Gracia Anglie Francie Et <2> Hibernie Regina fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem Sciatis quod nos in consideracione longi fidelis et acceptabilis seruicii <3> nobis per dilectum seruientem et Consiliarium nostrum Jacobum Crofte Militem Contrarotulatorem hospicii

<sup>1</sup> I.e. socage *in capite*—a form of tenure which became common after the Dissolution, when the Crown made many grants of land formerly held by knight's service. It was converted into free and common socage by 12 Charles II, c. 24. See C. I. Elton, *The Tenures of Kent* (1867), pp. 352-3.

<sup>2</sup> Lacunae have been supplied from the enrolment.

nostri antehac facti de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et <4> mero motu nostris Necnon ad humilem petitionem ipsius Jacobi Crofte Militis dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris damus et concedimus <5> dilectis et fidelibus nostris Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie et eorum successoribus vnum mesuagium et vnum Gardinum cum pertinenciis scituata iacentia et existentia in quodam vico <6> vocato Brodestreate infra Ciuitatem nostram Bristollie predictam modo vel nuper in tenura Georgii Snigge Armigeri Necnon tria alia mesuagia siue tenementa scituata iacentia et <7> existentia in Brodestreate predicta modo vel nuper in seperalibus tenuris Jacobi Farleighe Ricardi Ry[ce] et Henrici Coleman Necnon vnum clausurum pasture continens per estimationem quatuor <8> acras siue plus siue minus iacens et existens iuxta Brandon Hill in suburbiis Ciuitatis predictae modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupatione Ricardi Williams Roper Necnon sex ruinosae <9> tenementa iacentia et existentia in Suburbis Ciuitatis predictae in quodam loco vocato Redcliffe Hill modo vel nuper in seperalibus tenuris Walteri Pikes Willelmi Butler Walteri Hopley et Johannis Wrytte <10> Necnon septem alia ruinosae tenementa cum pertinenciis et sex Sellariis scituata iacentia et existentia in suburbiis Ciuitatis predictae in quadam Venella ibidem vocata Burtons Lane modo vel nuper in <11> seperalibus tenuris Jacobi Goodman Johannis Lia Nicholai Dennyis Johannis Fielde Johannis Boswell Thome Pallington Willelmi Yate Thome Masonne Michaelis Corie Roberti <12> Knighte Johannis Bauge ac Camerarii Ciuitatis predictae Necnon tria alia ruinosae tenementa ac paruum Gardinum scituata iacentia et existentia in suburbis Ciuitatis predictae in quodam <13> loco ibidem vocato Michael Hill modo vel nuper in seperalibus tenuris Willelmi Evers Roberti Aisheridge Johanne Smythe vidue et Johanne Symondes vidue Damus Eciam <14> ac per presentes de vberiori gracia nostra<sup>1</sup> certa sciencia et mero motu nostris pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus ac Comunitati Ciuitatis <15> nostre Bristollie predictae et successoribus suis perpetuum omnes et omnimodos boscus subboscus et Arbores nostras quascumque de in et super omnibus et singulis premissis per presentes preconcessis ac de in et super <16> qualibet inde parcella crescentibus et existentibus Ac totam terram fundum et solum eorundem boscorum subboscorum et arborum Ac eciam omnia et

<sup>1</sup> One would expect *ac ex* to follow *nostra*, but it is omitted both from the original and from the enrolment.



singula mesuagia domus<sup>1</sup> edificia structura [hor]rea stabula Columbaria hortos pomaria Gardina <17> tofta Crofta Curtilagia proficua commoditates emolumenta et hereditamenta nostra quecumque cum suis pertinenciis cuiuscumque generis nature seu speciei seu quibuscumque nominibus] sciant[ur] censeantur nuncupentur vel <18> cognoscantur premissis per presentes preconcessis seu eorum alicui villo modo spectantia vel pertinentia Ac reuersionem et reuersiones remanerium et remaneria quecumque omnium et singulorum premissorum superius expressorum et specificatorum et per presentes preconcessorum<sup>2</sup> et cuiuslibet <19> inde parcella Necnon redditus seruicia reuenciones condiciones commoditates et annualia proficua quecumque reseruata super quibuscumque dimissionibus vel concessionibus de premissis seu de aliqua inde parcella quoquo modo factis <20> Adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout Thomas Harte aut aliquis alius siue aliqui alii premissa aut aliquam inde parcellam antehac habentes aut possidentes [ea]dem premissa aut aliquam inde parcellam <21> vnquam habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt vel debuit Et adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout eadem omnia et singula premissa <22> qualibet inde parcella ad manus nostras aut ad manus aliquorum progenitorum nostrorum deueniunt seu deuenire debuerunt aut aliqua inde parcella deuenit seu deuenire debuit ac in manibus nostris modo existunt seu existere debent vel <23> deberent Habenda Tenenda et gaudenda omnia et singula predicta mesuagia terras tenementa prata pastura boscos subboscos redditus reuenciones seruicia et hereditamenta ac cetera omnia et singula <24> premissa superius expressa et specificata ac per presentes preconcessa cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinenciis prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae et successoribus suis ad solum et proprium opus et vsum <25> eorundem Maioris Burgensium et Comunitatis dicte Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie ac successorum suorum imperpetuum Tenenda de nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris vt de Manerio nostro de Estgren[ewiche] in Comitatu nostro Kancie per fidelitatem <26> tantum in libero et Comuni Socagio et non in Capite nec per seruicium Militare Ac Reddendo inde nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris viginti sex solidos et octo denarios legalis monete Anglie ad festa sancti <27> Michaelis Archaungeli et

<sup>1</sup> domos in MS.

<sup>2</sup> et . . . *preconcess* interlineated over caret.

Annunciacionis beate Marie Virginis ad Receptum Scaccarii nostri seu ad manus generalis Receptoris Comitatus nostri Somersete pro tempore existentis per equales porciones pro omnibus aliis redditibus <28> seruiciis et demandis quibuscumque proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendis soluendis vel faciendis Et Vltorius de ampliori gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedimus et <29> concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae omnia et singula exitus redditus reuenciones annualia proficua <30> arreragia quecumque omnium et singulorum premissorum superius expressorum et specificatorum et per presentes preconcessorum cum eorum pertinentiis vniuersis et cuiuslibet inde parcelle a tempore quo [ea]dem premissa aut aliqua inde parcella ad manus nostras <31> vel ad manus aliquorum progenitorum nostrorum deuenierunt seu deuenire debuerunt hucusque prouenientia crescentia et renouantia Habenda eisdem Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitate Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae ac successoribus suis ex [d]ono nostro <32> absque compoto seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Et volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus dictis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati <33> Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie et successoribus suis quod nos heredes et successores nostri eosdem Maiorem Burgenses et Comunitatem Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie et successores suos de omnibus et omnimodis redditibus feodis annuitatibus pensionibus porcionibus et <34> denariorum summis ac oneribus quibuscumque de premissis seu de aliquo premissorum nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris exeuntibus seu soluendis vel superinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris oneratis seu onerandis preterquam de predicto redditu viginti <35> sex solidorum octo denariorum per presentes superius reseruato de tempore in tempus exonerabimus acquietabimus et defendemus imperpetuum Et Vltorius volumus et concedimus per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus <36> nostris prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie predictae et successoribus suis quod hee litere nostre patentes vel irrotulamentum earundem erunt post hac firme valide bo[ne] sufficientes et effectuales in lege erga et contra nos <37> heredes et successores nostros tam in omnibus Curiis nostris quam alibi infra hoc regnum nostrum Anglie absque aliquibus Confirmationibus licenciis vel tolleracionibus de nobis heredibus vel

successoribus nostris imposterum per prefatos Maiorem Burgenses et <38> Comunitatem Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie et successores suos seu eorum aliquem aut aliquos procurandis vel obtinendis Non obstante male nominando vel male recitando aut non recitando predicta mesuagia terras tenementa ac [ce]tera premissa superius preconcessa <39> vel aliquam inde parcellam Et non obstante non inueniendo<sup>1</sup> officia et Inquisiciones premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle per quod siue per que titulum noster inueniri debuit ante confeccionem harum litterarum nostrarum Patencium Et non obstante male recitando <40> et non recitando aliquam dimissionem aut concessionem de premissis aut de aliqua inde parcella antehac factam tam de recordo quam non de recordo Et non obstante quod de nominibus Tenencium Firmariorum siue occupatorum premissorum <41> siue alicuius inde parcelle plena et recta non fit mencio Et non obstantibus aliquibus defectibus de certitudine vel computacione aut declaracione veri annualis valoris premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle aut annualis <42> redditus reseruati de et super premissis vel de et super aliqua[m] inde parcellam in hiis litteris nostris Patentibus expressis et contentis Et non obstantibus aliquibus aliis defectibus in non [nom]inacione aut in male nom[in]a[cio]ne alicuius <43> Tenentis firmarii siue occupatoris mesuagiorum terrarum tenementorum et hereditamentorum predictorum aut alicuius inde parcelle Aut in non nominando aut in non recte nominando naturas genera species qualitat[es] aut quantitates premissorum <44> aut alicuius inde parcelle Et non obstante proclamacione nostra pro certis penalibus statutis ac de et pro terris conclatis gerenti datum apud Manerium nostrum de Grenewiche decimo quinto die Decembris Anno regni nostri <45> vicesimo secundo habita facta et publicata<sup>2</sup> Prouiso semper quod si contigerit quod<sup>3</sup> predicta mesuagia terre tenementa et cetera premissa per presentes preconcessa siue aliqua inde parcella non fuerint a nobis conclata subtracta <46> et iniuste detenta decimo die Augusti vltimo preterito ante datum presencium Quod hee littere nostre Patentis et concessio nostra predicta quoad illam partem et parcellam inde tantum sic non conclatam subtractam et iniuste detentam <47> vacue sint<sup>4</sup> et nullius vigoris siue effectus in lege Nichilominus Volumus quod

<sup>1</sup> *non inueniend'* written in smaller hand over an erasure.

<sup>2</sup> See R. Steele, *Tudor and Stuart Proclamations*, 1485-1714, i. 79. This decree stopped the issue of commissions to enquire into concealed lands, because they had been "used to vex the subjects" of the Queen.

<sup>3</sup> An erasure follows *quod*.

<sup>4</sup> *vacua sit* in MS.

quoad residuum predictorum mesuagiorum terrarum tenementorum ac ceterorum premissorum per presentes preconcessorum valide et in suo pleno robore <48> remaneant Volumus Eciam ac per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Comuni-tati Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie quod habeant et habebunt has litteras nostras Patentes sub magno sigillo nostro Anglie <49> debito modo factas et sigillatas Absque fine seu feodo magno vel paruo nobis in hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad vsum nostrum quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo Eo Quod Expressa Mencio de vero valore <50> annuo aut de aliquo alio valore aut de certitudine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut de aliis donis siue concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem progenitorum siue predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus Ciuitatis nostre <51> Bristollie predictae antehac tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit Aut de aliquo statuto Actu ordinatione prouisione proclamacione siue restriccionem inde incontrarium facto edito ordinato siue prouiso aut aliqua alia re <52> causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante In Cuius Rei Testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus Patentes Teste me ipsa apud Westmonasterium decimo die Julij Anno regni <53> nostri vicesimo sexto.

S. Gerrarde<sup>1</sup>

[*per Warrantum Commissionar'*]<sup>2</sup>

## XVI

### GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1604

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus), of 12 July, 2 and 37 James I.*

*Recites and confirms the Inspeximus of 1 March 1559, and the Grant of Liberties of 28 July 1581 (supra, pp. 118-9 and 125-34).*

*The original is missing, and I have been unable to find any enrolment in the P.R.O., in either the Confirmation or Patent Rolls. Nor is there any warrant among the Chancery Warrants for July 1604.*

<sup>1</sup> Sir Gilbert Gerrard was Master of the Rolls. For S., see *supra*, p. 118 n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Note of warranty supplied from enrolment; none in original.

*The only source of information, therefore, appears to be the Insepimus of 1626, which recites it, and from which this abstract is taken (P.R.O. C.66/2388, mm. 1-28).*

Seyer, *Charters*, 202-3 (from the Insepimus of 1664); M.C.R. 1178 & 1225 (where it is confused with the Admiralty Insepimus of 12 July 1547, and the Admiralty Commission of 1605)<sup>1</sup>; Latimer, *Calendar*, 150.

## XVII

## LICENCE IN MORTMAIN, 1620

*Letters Patent of 31 May, 18 and 53 James I*

*The King is aware that the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol are at heavy expense in maintaining in good repair the port, river-banks, sea-walls and highways in and near the city, which have suffered delapidation from the traffic of ships and merchants. Therefore, with a view to the public good and the increase of trade, he authorises them to acquire for these and other public purposes, lands and possessions to the clear annual value of £500, notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain, and on condition that such lands and possessions are held in free and common socage and not in chief or by military service. The King also grants to any person full power and authority to give, cede, bequeath or alienate such lands and possessions to the city. These acquisitions are not to be subject to any inquisition, or to challenge by the writ ad quod damnum or any other writ.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01239. It consists of a single membrane, 24½" wide by 20½" long; in good condition; with decorations in the upper margin which include a representation of the King; a seal in brown wax (slightly damaged) attached by red and white (? gilt) cords threaded in lozenge pattern through the folded lower margin.*

*Endorsements: A grant of James ye 1st [sic] 1620 [sic. 1620 in later hand] . . . graunted to the [Maioir Burge]sses & [Cominaltie of] Brist[owe] [Y]onge et [Pye]*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 18 James I, pt. I, no. 1.*

M.C.R. 1159; Latimer, *Calendar*, 152.

<sup>1</sup> See *infra*, pp. 230-1.

Jacobus Dei Gracia Anglie Scocie <2> Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor etc.; Omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint salutem; Sciatis quod nos <3> magna et excessiva onera et expensas que dilecti Subditi nostri Maior Burgenses et Communitas Civitatis Bristollie<sup>1</sup> tam circa <4> annualem reparacionem et supportacionem Portus eiusdem Civitatis, quam littorum, Riparum, Murorum maritorum Pontium et viarum regiarum <5> eiusdem Civitatis, vel eidem prope adiacentium multociens ex populi et Navium merchandizandi causa adventu ruinos et perituros <6> existentes debite considerantes, Necnon publicum commodum et emolumenta dicte Civitatis gracie affectantes, ac Commercii ibidem <7> continuacionem et augmentacionem desiderantes, de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedimus et <8> concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus Maiori Burgensibus et <9> Communitati Civitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis licenciam specialem, liberamque et licitam potestatem facultatem authoritatem <10> habendi, perquirendi, recipiendi, obtinendi, gaudendi et possidendi eis et Successoribus suis imperpetuum tam ad et versus reparacionem et <11> manutencionem Portus Pontium et littorum quam ad, et versus supportacionem<sup>2</sup> et solucionem aliorum comuniorum et publicorum onerum et expensarum et aliorum <12> necessariorum onerum et expensarum Civitatis predictae de quocunque Subdito nostro sive quibuscunque Subditis nostris aut aliqua alia persona sive aliquibus <13> aliis personis quibuscunque Dominia Maneria terras tenementa revenciones servicia Rectorias porciones, Annuitates penciones advocaciones Ecclesiarum, ac omnia alia hereditamenta <14> Franchesias et Possessiones quecunque non excedentia in toto valorem quingentarum librarum per Annum ultra omnia onera et reprisas, Ita tamen quod dicta Dominia Maneria terre <15> tenementa et hereditamenta non excedentia clarum annum valorem quingentarum librarum, et quelibet inde pars et parcella teneantur et teneatur de nobis heredibus et <16> Successoribus nostris aut de aliqua alia persona sive aliquibus aliis personis in libero et communi Soccagio tantum, et non in Capite nec per servicium militare. Statuto <17> de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio Statuto, Actu, Ordinacione, sive Provisiione antehac habito, facto, ordinato, sive proviso, aut aliqua

<sup>1</sup> Presumably *Bristollie* should be followed by a verb or verbs. In a similar passage in *vol. ii*, p. 122, the verbs are *habent et sustinent*.

<sup>2</sup> *supportacione* in MS.

⟨18⟩ alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante; Dedimus eciam et concessimus, ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus ⟨19⟩ nostris damus et concedimus cuicunque Subdito nostro et quibuscunque Subditis nostris ac alicui alie persone sive aliquibus alijs personis quibuscunque plenam potestatem ⟨20⟩ facultatem et authoritatem, quod ipse vel ipsi aut eorum aliquis vel aliqui aliqua Dominia, Maneria, terras, tenementa, revenciones, servicia, Rectorias, porciones, annuitates, penciones advocaciones ⟨21⟩ Ecclesiarum ac alia hereditamenta, Franchlesias, et Possessiones quecunque non excedentia in toto valorem quingentarum librarum per Annum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et ⟨22⟩ Communitati Civitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis licite et impune dare, concedere, vendere, legare vel alienare possint et valeant aut eorum quilibet possit et valeat, Ita ⟨23⟩ tamen quod dicta Dominia, maneria, terre, tenementa et hereditamenta sic ut prefertur danda, concedenda, vendenda, leganda vel alienanda et quelibet inde pars et parcella ⟨24⟩ teneantur et teneatur de nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris, aut de aliqua alia persona sive aliquibus alijs personis in libero et communi Socagio tantum, et ⟨25⟩ non in Capite nec per servicium militare; Statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis, aut aliquo alio Statuto, Actu, Ordinatione vel ⟨26⟩ Provisione antehac habito, facto, edito, ordinato sive proviso, aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante; Et hoc absque aliqua Inquisicione sive ⟨27⟩ aliquibus Inquisicionibus inde pretextu alicuius brevis sive mandati nostri aut aliquorum brevium sive mandatorum nostrorum heredum seu Successorum nostrorum de ad ⟨28⟩ quod dampnum, aut alicuius alterius brevis, concessionis, Mandati seu Precepti nostri heredum vel Successorum nostrorum in hac parte faciendi, prosequendi seu ⟨29⟩ capiendi et in Cancellario nostro heredum vel Successorum nostrorum seu alibi retornandi, et absque alio warranto nostri heredum vel Successorum nostrorum de in sive pro ⟨30⟩ premissis, aut aliquo premissorum quovismodo impetrando, habendo, seu faciendo; Volumus Eciam ac per presentes concedimus prefatis Maiori, Burgensibus et ⟨31⟩ Communitati Civitatis Bristollie quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras Patentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo ⟨32⟩ magno vel parvo nobis in Hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad usum nostrum proinde quoquo modo reddendo, solvendo, vel faciendo; Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore ⟨33⟩ annuo aut de

certitudine premissorum vel eorum alicuius, aut de alijs donis sive Concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum vel Predecessorum nostrorum <34> prefatis Maiori, Burgensibus, et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie antehac factis, in presentibus minime facta existit, Aut aliquo Statuto, Actu, Ordinacione, Provisione, Proclamacione <35> sive Restrictione ante hec tempora habito, facto, edito, ordinato, sive proviso aut aliqua alia re, causa, vel materia quacunque in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante ; In Cuius <36> rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes ; Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium tricesimo primo die Maij Anno regni nostri Anglie, Francie et Hibernie <37> decimo octavo, et Scocie quinquagesimo tercio ;

Yonge et Pye ;

*per breve de privato Sigillo ;*

### XVIII

#### GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1626

*Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 18 August, 2 Charles I*

*Recites and confirms the General Confirmation of 12 July, 2 and 37 James I (1604), (supra, pp. 140-1).*

*The original has not been preserved, and was missing when Latimer compiled his Calendar. The enrolment is in P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 2 Charles I, pt. 16, no. 13 (mm. 1-28).*

*It was dated at Canbury (P.R.O. Chancery Docket Book, 1623-30, fo. 196). There is no trace of it in the lists of Privy Seal Warrants for the period given in Deputy-Keeper's Reports, vol. xliii.*

*Seyer, Charters, 204 ; Latimer, Calendar, 152 ; Weinbaum, B.B.C., 41.*

### XIX

#### INCORPORATION OF THE CASTLE IN THE CITY, 1629

*Letters Patent of 13 April, 5 Charles I*

*King Edward III, by Letters Patent of 8 August in the forty-seventh year of his reign, made the town and suburbs of Bristol separate from the counties of Gloucester and of Somerset, and a county by itself ; King Henry VIII, by Letters Patent of 5 June in the thirty-fourth year of his reign, erected the town into a city ; but the*



Castle, which is part of the ancient demesne of the Crown, has, with its buildings and land, remained within the county of Gloucester. However, no Justice of Gloucestershire lives near it, and its distance from the city of Gloucester, with its freedom from the jurisdiction of the city of Bristol, have made it a dwelling-place of criminals, "persons of inordinate life," and fugitives from service in the King's wars. Therefore the King, wishing to find a timely and appropriate remedy, and also at the request of the Queen, now declares the Castle, its walls, banks and ditches, its houses, buildings, orchards, gardens, waters, watercourses and land, to be forever exempt and separate from the county of Gloucester, and from the jurisdiction of its officers, and to be forever member, part and parcel of the city and county of Bristol, and within the jurisdiction of its officers.

Furthermore, of his "ampler grace," the King decrees that the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol, their officers, and all citizens and burgesses of the city, shall have in perpetuity within the liberty of the Castle and its bounds, all "jurisdictions, authorities, powers, liberties, franchises, privileges" etc. such as they legally enjoy in other parts of the city.

The men and inhabitants of the Castle and its bounds are to have all the rights of citizens and burgesses of the city, both in Bristol and elsewhere, but the Castle is still to remain a part of the ancient desmesne of the Crown, and its inhabitants tenants of the Crown.

The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01241. It consists of a single membrane, 30½" wide by 25½" long; in very good condition; with decorations in the upper margin which include a portrait of the King; the seal, in brown wax, in good preservation, attached by red and white (? gilt) cords threaded in lozenge pattern through the folded lower margin.

Endorsements: A perpetuity graunted to the Mayor & Commonalty of the Citty of Bristoll Wolseley

Grant of Charles 1st. of Coroners 1630. [sic].

Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 5 Charles I, pt. 13 no. 31.

Seyer, *Charters*, 205-13; Latimer, *Calendar*, 153-4.

Carolus Dei Gratia Anglie Scotie <2> Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes litere peruenerint Salutem; Cum Dominus Edwardus nuper Rex Anglie tertius <3> Progenitor noster recolende memorie per literas suas Patentes gerentes datum apud Woodstock octauo die Augusti Anno regni sui quadragesimo septimo pro causis et consideracionibus <4> in

eisdem literis Patentibus specificatis concesserit Burgensibus Ville sue Bristollie et eorum heredibus et Successoribus imperpetuum Quod dicta Villa Bristollie cum Suburbis et Precinctibus eiusdem <5> iuxta fines et bundas prout limitate tunc fuerunt de Comitatu Gloucestrie et Somersett' de cetero extunc seperata foret pariter et in omnibus exempta tam per terram quam per <6> aquam et quod foret Comitatus per se et Comitatus Bristollie nuncupatur imperpetuum, Ac Dominus Henricus nuper Rex Anglie octauus per literas suas Patentes gerentes datum <7> quinto die Junii Anno regni sui Tricesimo quarto voluerit et ordinauerit quod dicta Villa Bristollie extunc et deinceps imperpetuum foret Ciuitas, Ipsamque Ciuitatem Bristollie <8> vocari appellari et nominari. Voluerit etiam, et decreuerit, quod Comitatus predictae Ville Bristollie de cetero extunc imperpetuum foret Comitatus Ciuitatis sue Bristollie <9> et extunc imperpetuum Comitatum Ciuitatis sue Bristollie nuncupari et nominari voluerit et decreuerit Prout per seperales literas Patentes antedictas liquet et apparet. <10> Iidemque Burgenses ac Maior et Comunitas Ville Bristollie ac Maior et Comunitas Ciuitatis nostre Bristollie diuersa libertates franchises priuilegia et quietancias tam virtute <11> seperalium literarum Patencium per Progenitores nostros inde confectarum habuerunt eisdemque vsi sunt et gauisi infra Villam Ciuitatem et Comitatum predictum ac Suburba limites et bundas <12> eorundem Ac Maior Vicecomites Escaetores Coronatores Iusticiarii ad pacem et ad felonias transgressionem et alia malefacta in Villa Ciuitate et Comitatu predicto assignati ac alii Officiarii <13> et Ministri infra Villam et Ciuitatem predictam constituti ea que ad seperalia Officia sua pertinent hactenus exerciti sunt et exercuerunt in Villa Ciuitate et Comitatu predicto Cumque Castrum <14> nostrum Bristollie quod est de Dominico nostro ac parcella possessionum antiquarum Corone nostre Anglie et Muri eiusdem et fossata et ripe Castrum illud ambitata Necnon omnia Domus et edificia atria Pomaria gardina <15> Aque Aque cursus terre fundum et solum infra circuitum limites siue Precinctus eiusdem Castri infra Comitatum nostrum Gloucestrie modo scituantur et existunt et a Ciuitate nostra Gloucestrie per spacium triginta leucarum <16> distantia et extra Ciuitatem nostram Bristollie et Comitatum predictae Ciuitatis Bristollie scituata nec partes<sup>1</sup> inde existentia eidem tamen Ciuitati Bristollie et Comitatu Ciuitatis Bristollie contigue adiacentia existunt Cumque <17> certificatione fide digna accepimus quod ea ratione quod nulli Iusticiarii predicti

<sup>1</sup> parte in MS.

Comitatus Gloucestrie prope predictum Castrum Bristollie inhabitant ac Officiarii predicte Ciuitatis Bristollie nullam authoritatem vel <18> iurisdiccione[m] ibidem exercendam habent multi latrones malefactores et alii inordinate viuentes necnon diuerse persone ad seruicia nostra in guerris habiles et idonei cum eorum seruicio opus fuerit in <19> Castrum predictum fugerint et exinde multocies<sup>1</sup> impune euaserint in nostri et legum nostrarum et Iusticie contemptum et derogacionem ac bonorum Subditorum nostrorum grauamen dampnum et preiudicium <20> Sciatis quod nos premissa considerantes omniaque (quantum in nobis est) prout astringimur que Reipublice et fidelium Subditorum nostrorum preiudicium siue lesionem enormem euenire contingant remedio <21> opportuno et congruo precauere cupientes Necnon ad requisicionem predilectissime Consortis nostre Domine Henerette Maria Regina de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris <22> voluimus ordinauimus constituimus et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus ordinamus constituimus et concedimus quod predictum Castrum nostrum Bristollie <23> ac Muri ripe et fossata eiusdem modo infra Comitatum nostrum Gloucestrie scituata et existentia ac omnia Domus edificia atria horti Pomaria Gardina Aque Aque cursus terre fundum et solum infra circuitum libertatem <24> limites siue precinctus eiusdem Castri, aut parte inde existentia exnunc imperpetuum sint et erint tam per terram quam per Aquam penitus exempta et seperata a predicto Comitatu nostro Gloucestrie et ab omni <25> iurisdiccione potestate et authoritate Vicecomitis Escaetorum Coronatorum Iusticiariorum et aliorum Officiariorum et Ministrorum nostrorum heredum et Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque dicti Comitatus Gloucestrie imperpetuum <26> Quodque dictum Castrum Bristollie et cetera quecunque premencionata infra limites circuitum vel precinctus eiusdem aut partes inde existentia de cetero imperpetuum sint erint capientur et acceptabuntur vt membri partes et <27> parcelle predicte Ciuitatis Bristollie et Comitatus eiusdem Ciuitatis ac infra Comitatum Ciuitatis Bristollie ac infra iurisdiccione[m] potestatem et authoritatem Maioris Vicecomitum Coronatorum Escaetoris Iusticiariorum et aliorum <28> Officiariorum et Ministrorum nostrorum heredum et Successorum nostrorum dicte Ciuitatis ac Comitatus eiusdem ac pars inde imperpetuum Ac predictum Castrum nostrum Bristollie et omnia Domus<sup>2</sup> edificia atria pomaria gardina <29> Aquas

<sup>1</sup> (*mul*)*tocies* written over an erasure.

<sup>2</sup> *Domos* in MS.

Aquarum cursus fossata ripas terras fundum et solum infra circuitum libertatem limites vel precinctus dicti Castri aut parte inde existentia de predicto Comitatu Gloucestrie ac ab omni iurisdiccione potestate et <30> autoritate Vicecomitis Escaetorum Coronatorum Iusticiariorum et aliorum Officiariorum quorumcunque dicti Comitatus Gloucestrie pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris penitus seperamus imperpetuum per presentes Ac <31> dictum Castrum nostrum Bristollie et cetera quecunque premencionata infra limites circuitum vel precinctus eiusdem aut partes inde existentia dicte Ciuitatis Bristollie ac Comitatus eiusdem Ciuitatis ac iurisdiccione potestate et <32> autoritate Maioris Vicecomitum Coronatorum Escaetoris Iusticiariorum et aliorum Officiariorum et Ministri dicte Ciuitatis et Comitatus eiusdem pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus [nostris]<sup>1</sup> vnimus et annectimus imperpetuum <33> per presentes Et Vltorius de ampliori gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus <34> Maiori et Comunitati Ciuitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis Quod predicti Maior et Comunitas et Aldermanni Vicecomites Escaetores Coronatores Iusticarii ad pacem et ad felonias transgressionem et alia <35> malefacta in predicta Ciuitate Bristollie et Comitatu eiusdem Ciuitatis assignati et assignandi ac omnes alii Officarii et Ministri infra Ciuitatem Bristollie predictam et Comitatum eiusdem constituti et <36> constituendi ac singuli Burgenses et Ciues eiusdem Ciuitatis de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant vtantur gaudeant et exerceant ac habere tenere vti gaudere et exercere valeant et possint infra <37> predictum Castrum de Bristollie libertatem et precinctus eiusdem et qualibet inde parte tot tanta talia eadem huiusmodi et consimilia iura iurisdicciones autoritates potestates libertates franchises priuilegia immunitates <38> quietancias regimen deductorum hominum potestatem tenendi placita et habere cognicionem placitorum Visus franci plegii et omnia que ad visum franciplegii pertinent et delinquencium castigacionem quecunque quot quanta <39> qualia et que ipsi aut eorum aliquis aut aliqui modo habent tenent vtuntur gaudent et exercent aut habere tenere vti gaudere et exercere valeant aut possint infra dictam Ciuitatem et Comitatum eiusdem aut <40> eorum alter ratione vel pretextu alicuius Carte Doni Concessionis seu Confirmacionis aut aliquarum literarum Patencium per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum vel Antecessorum nostrorum Regum vel

<sup>1</sup> *nostris* supplied from enrolment.

Reginarum <41> Anglie antehac facti concessi seu confirmati seu quocunque alio legali modo iure titulo vsu prescripcione seu consuetudine quocunque Ita quod nullus Vicecomes Escaetor Coronator Iusticiarius aut alius Officiariorum <42> seu Ministrorum nostrorum heredum vel Successorum nostrorum predicti Comitatus Gloucestrie dictum Castrum libertatem vel precinctus eiusdem ad aliquod quod ad Officium suum inibi faciendum pertinet seu pertinere poterit <43> ingrediatur seu ingredi presumat quouismodo Ac Quod homines et Inhabitantes infra Castrum et precinctus predicta pro tempore existentes et Comorantes ibidem omnia et singula libertates <44> franchises priuilegia acquietancias immunitates per Ciues seu Burgenses Ciuitatis predictae tam infra Ciuitatem predictam seu alibi extra eandem Ciuitatem habita seu gauisa habeant et gaudeant imperpetuum ac vt <45> Ciues et homines eiusdem Ciuitatis prout ceteri Ciues et homines Ciuitatis illius tam infra Ciuitatem illam quam extra eandem habeantur tractentur et reputentur in omnibus Ac quod predictis Maiori <46> et Comunitati ac Maiori Vicecomitibus Escaetori Iusticiariis Coronatoribus et aliis Officiariis et Ministris predictae Comunitatis Ciuitatis seu Comitatus Ciuitatis Bristollie de tempore in tempus respondentes sint pariter et intendentes <47> in omnibus prout Ciues Burgenses et homines eiusdem Ciuitatis Bristollie respondentes seu intendentes sunt vel esse debeant licet Castrum predictum vel alia premissa sic vt prefertur vnita predicto Ciuitati et <48> Comitatu Ciuitatis Bristollie sint vel eorum aliquod sit de dominico nostro aut parcella possessionum Corone nostre Ac licet homines ibi degentes seu inhabitantes sint Tenentes nostri seu infra Castrum nostrum seu <49> feodum nostrum comorantes. Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de alio valore aut de certitudine premissorum vel eorum alicuius aut de aliis Donis siue Concessionibus per nos seu per <50> aliquem Progenitorum vel predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori et Comunitati Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit Aut aliquo Statuto Actu Ordinatione Prouisione <51> Proclamacione siue Restrictione in contrarium inde antehac habito facto edito ordinato siue prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante. In Cuius rei testimonium <52> has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium Terциdecimo die Aprilis Anno regni nostri quinto /

Wolseley. /

*per breue de priuato sigillo etc.*

## XX

## PURCHASE OF THE CASTLE BY THE CITY, 1630

*Letters Patent of 26 October, 6 Charles I*

*In return for the sum of £959 "and for divers other good reasons," the King grants to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the city of Bristol, the whole of the Castle and its possessions in the counties of Bristol and of Gloucester. It consists of walls, towers, ditches and banks; of houses, buildings, barns, stables, dovecotes, wharves, shops etc.; a "mansion-house" in the tenure of Francis Brewster, yeoman<sup>1</sup>; forty-three tenements<sup>2</sup>; the "King's Orchard,"<sup>3</sup> the Inner Green, a woodyard, and three gardens. At present the property is held by Francis Brewster, on a lease granted for the lives of John, Gillian and Nathaniel Brewster (up to a maximum of eighty years), at a rent of £100 a year. The city is also to have the reversion of this lease.*

*The Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty are to have and enjoy all "rights, jurisdictions, liberties, franchises, customs, privileges and profits" attaching to the property as fully as any previous tenants, and as fully as any previous royal owner, except that the King reserves to himself and to his successors all advowsons of churches, hospitals and chapels, and all other ecclesiastical benefices, as well as all knights' fees, mines and mineral rights.*

*The property is to be held as of the King's manor of East Greenwich, Kent, in free and common socage, and not in chief or by military service, at a fee-farm rent of £40 a year, to be paid in equal portions at Michaelmas and Ladyday. If payment of either portion is overdue by forty days, the King's Receiver-General or any of his officers may enter the property and distrain for arrears; whilst the city is to forfeit £6 13s. 4d. for every month's delay beyond those forty days. Distrainment may also be levied for the collection of these fines.*

*The King absolves and acquits the new owners of all payments due from these properties, apart from the rent and forfeits above-mentioned; and these Letters Patent or their enrolment are to be sufficient, without further confirmation or licence, to give them their discharge before officers of the Exchequer or other royal officers.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> See *supra*, p. 76.

<sup>2</sup> The tenants are listed in the text, *infra*, pp. 152-4.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *vol. i*, p. 163, n.4.

<sup>4</sup> There follow at this point twelve *non obstante's* which cover, amongst other things, the Statute of Mortmain. *Infra*, pp. 160-1.

*Finally, the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty are to forfeit £10 if they fail to enroll these Letters Patent before the auditor of the county or the Clerk of the Pipe within six months of the date of the grant, and £10 for every successive period of six months in which enrolment is not made.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01242. It consists of two membranes, 30" wide, and 27½" and 25" long. It is in good condition,<sup>1</sup> and has decorations (including a portrait of the King and elaborated capitals) in the upper margin of m. 1. A well-preserved seal, in brown wax, is appended by red-and-white (? gilt) cords, braided in lozenge pattern through the folded bottom margin.*

*Endorsements :*

*. . . to the Mayor Burgesses & Comminaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll Wolseley.*

*Charles 1st. grant of ye Castle 1631 [sic].*

*[Another endorsement illegible.]*

*Enrolment : P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 6 Charles I, pt. 9, no. 7, mm. 1-4.*

*Seyer, Charters, 214-34 ; M.C.R. 1159 ; Latimer, Calendar, 154-5.*

Carolus Dei Gracia Anglie Scocie <2> Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei Defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod nos tam pro et in consideracione <3> summe nonnigentarum quinquaginta novem librarum legalis monete Anglie per dilectos nobis Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie ad Receptum Scaccarii <4> nostri Westmonasterii ad vsum nostrum pre manibus bene et fideliter solute vnde fatemur nos plenarie fore satisfactos et persolutos, Eosdemque Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem et Successores <5> suos inde et de qualibet inde parcella acquietatos et exoneratos esse imperpetuum per presentes, quam pro diversis aliis bonis causis et consideracionibus nos ad presens specialiter <6> moventibus de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus <7> prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis Totum illud Castrum nostrum de Bristollia in Comitatu Civitatis nostre Bristollie et in Comitatu nostro Gloucestrie <8> vel in eorum alterio cum suis iuribus membris et

<sup>1</sup> A few words have been obscured by rubbing. These have been supplied from the enrolment.

pertinenciis vniversis, Necnon totam illam domum mancionalem nostram infra Castrum de Bristollia predictum modo vel nuper in tenuta sive <9> occupacione Francisci Brewster yeoman vel Assignatorum suorum Ac totum illud Clausum iacens contra fossam Castri predicti vocatum per nomen de le Kinges orchard continens per estimacionem duas <10> acras, ac totam illam parcellam terre nostre vocatam the Inner Greene, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum infra precinctus septum ambitum vel circuitum Castri de Bristollie predicti <11> modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Johannis Brewer vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Johannis Griffith <12> infra precinctus Castri predicti, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum cum pertinenciis ibidem modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Thome Usher vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum <13> nostrum cum pertinenciis ibidem<sup>1</sup> modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Johannis Richard' vel Assignatorum suorum, ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive <14> occupacione Thome Gresham vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Willelmi Pitman vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem <15> cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Johannis Fisher vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Edwardi Duddleston vel <16> Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Ricardi Hooper vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in <17> tenuta sive occupacione Johannis Peeters vel Assignatorum nostrorum [*sic*], Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Thome Chilton vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud <18> tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione<sup>2</sup> Johannis Webb vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenuta sive occupacione Johannis

<sup>1</sup> *ibidem* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> *occupacione* interlineated over caret.



<19> Jenkins vel Assignatorum nostrorum [*sic*], Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Margerie Bracy vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum cum pertinenciis <20> modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Cristoferi Robert' vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Henrici Morgan vel Assignatorum <21> suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Wood vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in <22> tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Hollester vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Thome Lucas vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud <23> tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Johannis Clarke vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive <24> occupacione Ricardi Binfeild vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Boys vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum <25> pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Pytman vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem<sup>1</sup> cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Morris vel Assignatorum <26> suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Roberti Thomas vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in <27> tenura sive occupacione Hugonis Smarte vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Basett vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum <28> nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Johannis Haynes vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Roberti <29> Hand vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione

<sup>1</sup> *ibidem* interlineated over caret.

Johannis Tinkam vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem <30> cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Johns vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Thome <31> Lambers vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Walters vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem <32> cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione predicti Francisci Brewster vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud le Woodyard nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Edwardi <33> Weekes vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud gardinum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Harte vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud gardinum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis <34> modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Alexandri Rowsell vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud gardinum nostrum cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Thome James vel <35> Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Josie Smith vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis <36> modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Jacobi Jones vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Roberti Phelipps vel <37> Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Johannis Hewes vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione<sup>1</sup> Margarete Jones vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem <38> cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Samuelis Addams vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi <39> Joy vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Willelmi Billingsley vel Assignatorum suorum, Ac totum illud tenementum nostrum <40> ibidem cum pertinenciis modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupacione Stephani Jones vel Assignatorum suorum.

<sup>1</sup> *Johannis Hewes . . . occupacione* interlineated over caret.

Necnon omnia et singula domus edificia structuras horrea stabula Columbaria hortos pomaria gardina terras tenementa <41> Cotagia Aulas Cameras shopas Cellaria solaria introitus exitus vias semitas vacuas funda easiamenta fructus, aquas aquarum cursus wharffos proficua commoditates advantagia emolumenta et hereditamenta nostra <42> quecunque premissis predictis seu alicui eorundem parti vel parcellae ullo modo spectantia pertinentia vel appendentia aut vt pars parcella vel membrum eorundem seu eorum alicuius antehac vsitatum occupatum reputatum seu <43> gavisum existens, ac muros turres fossa ripas et fossata Castrum predictum includentia vel ambientia, quod quidem Castrum per presentes preconcessum per literas nostras patentes gerentes datum apud Westmonasterium <44> vicesimo tercio die Augusti Anno regni nostri secundo prefato Francisco Brewster Executoribus et Assignatis suis a festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli tunc proxime futuro post datum earundem literarum <45> nostrarum patencium vsque ad finem termini et per terminum Octoginta annorum extunc proxime sequentium et plenarie complendorum si Johannes Brewster Gillian Brewster et Nathaniel Brewster aut aliquis eorum <46> tam diu viverit pro vel sub annuali reddito Centum librarum mencionatur fuisse dimissum, Dedimus eciam et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris pro consideracione <47> predicta damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie predictae et Successoribus suis revercionem et reverciones remanerium et remaneria nostra quecunque predictorum Castri terrarum <48> tenementorum et hereditamentorum et ceterorum omnium et singulorum premissorum superius per presentes preconcessorum aut mencionatorum fore concessi et cuiuslibet inde parcellae dependentis vel expectantis de in vel super aliquam vel <49> aliquas dimissionem vel concessionem dimissiones vel concessionem pro Terminis vite vitarum vel annorum aut aliter de premissis per presentes preconcessis aut mencionatis fore concessi seu de aliqua <50> eorundem parcella quoquomodo facta existenti de recordo vel non de recordo, Necnon omnia et singula redditus et annualia proficua quocunque reservata super quibuscunque dimissionibus vel concessionibus de premissis <51> per presentes preconcessis aut mencionatis fore concessi seu de aliqua inde parcella facta existentia de recordo vel non de recordo. ac redditus et annualia proficua omnium et singulorum eorundem premissorum et cuiuslibet <52> inde parcellae; Dedimus ulterius et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus

nostris damus et concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictæ et <53> Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant et gaudeant ac habere tenere et gaudere valeant et possint infra predicta Castrum terras tenementa et hereditamenta <54> et cetera omnia et singula premissa superius per presentes preconcessa aut mencionata fore concessi ac infra quamlibet inde parcellam tot tanta talia eadem huiusmodi et consimilia iura iurisdictiones libertates franchises <55> consuetudines privilegia proficua commoditates advantagia emolumenta et hereditamenta quecunque quot quanta qualia et que, Ac adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout aliquis <56> alius sive aliqui alii predictum Castrum terras tenementa et cetera premissa superius per presentes preconcessa aut mencionata fore concessi aut aliquam inde parcellam vnquam antehac habentes possidentes aut <57> seisiti inde existentes habens possidens aut seisitus inde existens vnquam habuerunt tenuerunt vsi vel gavisii fuerunt habuit tenuit vsus vel gavisus fuit seu habere tenere vti vel gaudere debuerunt aut <58> debuit in premissis superius<sup>1</sup> per presentes preconcessis aut in aliqua inde parcella ratione vel pretextu alicuius Carte doni concessionis seu confirmacionis per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum vel Antecessorum nostrorum <59> nuper Regum vel Reginarum Anglie antehac habiti facti concessi seu confirmati aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius actus parliamenti vel aliquorum actuum parliamentorum aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius legitime <60> prescriptionis vsus seu consuetudinis antehac habiti seu vsitati aut aliter quocunque legali modo iure seu titulo ac adeo plene libere et integre ac in [tam] amplis modo et forma prout nos aut aliquis Progenitorum <61> vel Antecessorum nostrorum nuper Regum vel Reginarum Anglie predictum Castrum terras tenementa et hereditamenta et cetera premissa superius per presentes preconcessa aut mencionata fore concessi aut quamlibet <62> seu aliquam inde parcellam habuimus et gavisii fuimus aut habuerunt seu gavisii fuerunt aut habere et gaudere debuimus aut habere et gaudere debuerunt aut debuit<sup>2</sup>; <63> Damus vltterius ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictæ <64> et Successoribus suis predictum Castrum terras tenementa et hereditamenta ac cetera premissa superius per presentes precon-

<sup>1</sup> *superius* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> After *debuit* a passage has been erased in the original, but it is clear from comparison with the enrolment that nothing of the text has been omitted.

cessa aut mencionata fore concessi et quamlibet inde parcellam cum eorum <65> pertinentiis vniversis vnacum omnibus et omnimodis ripis fossatis muris et aliis structuris infra precinctum Castri predicti seu Castrum illud includendis adeo plene libere et integre <66> ac in tamplis [*sic*] modo et forma prout ea omnia et singula premissa aut aliqua inde parcella ad manus nostras seu ad manus aliquorum Progenitorum vel Antecessorum nostrorum nuper Regum vel Reginarum [*End of membrane 1*] Anglie aut ad manus eorum vel earum alicuius racione vel pretextu alicuius Actus Parliamenti vel aliquorum Actuum Parliamentorum aut racione alicuius Exchambii vel perquisicionis aut alicuius doni vel <2> Concessionis aut racione alicuius attincture sive forisfacture aut racione Escaete seu quocunque alio legali modo iure seu titulo devenerunt seu<sup>1</sup> devenire debuerunt aut in manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel <3> deberent, Exceptis tamen semper et extra hanc presentem concessionem omnino reservatis omnibus et singulis advocacionibus ecclesiarum hospitalium et Capellarum et aliorum beneficiorum ecclesiasticorum ac omnibus <4> feodis Militum premissis pertinentibus, ac omnibus Mineriiis plumbi et stanni ac omnibus et singulis aliis Mineriiis regalibus quibuscunque premissorum, ac omnibus prerogativis eisdem Mineriiis spectantibus sive pertinentibus <5> Habenda tenenda et gaudenda predictum Castrum terre tenementa libertates proficua privilegia et hereditamenta et cetera omnia et singula premissa superius per presentes preconcessa aut <6> mencionata fore concessi cum suis iuribus membris libertatibus et pertinentiis univrsis (exceptis preexceptis) prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictae et Successoribus suis ad solum et proprium <7> opus et vsum ipsorum Maioris Burgensium et Communitatis et Successorum suorum imperpetuum, Tenenda de nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris vt de Manerio nostro de Eastgreenwich in Comitatu <8> nostro Kant' per fidelitatem tantum in libero et communi Socagio et non in Capite nec per servicium Militarium, Ac Reddendo inde annuatim nobis heredibus et Successoribus<sup>2</sup> nostris in feodi firma quadraginta libras <9> legalis monete Anglie ad Receptum Scaccarii nostri Westmonasterii heredum et Successorum nostrorum vel ad manus Receptorum vel Ballivorum premissorum pro tempore existentium ad festa sancti Michaelis Archangeli <10> et Annunciacionis beate Marie Virginis per equales porciones annuatim solvendas imperpetuum pro

<sup>1</sup> *devenerunt seu* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> *Successoribus* interlineated over caret.

omnibus aliis redditibus serviciis exactionibus et demaundis quibuscunque proinde nobis heredibus vel <11> Successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendis solvendis vel faciendis, Et si et quoties contigerit predictus<sup>1</sup> annualis redditus superius per presentes reservatus aretro fore non solutus in parte vel in toto per spacium <12> quadraginta dierum post aliquod festum festorum predictorum quo vt prefertur solvi debeat, Quod extunc de tempore in tempus bene liceat et licebit nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris per Receptorem generalem <13> nostrum heredum et Successorum nostrorum pro tempore existentem vel Deputatum suum sive aliquos alios Ministros nostri heredum vel Successorum nostrorum vel eorum aliquem in predicta premissa aut aliquam inde parcellam <14> intrare et distringere et districciones ibidem inventas seu inveniendas capere et retinere quousque nos heredes et Successores nostri de predicto redditu vnacum arreragiis inde si que fuerunt plenarie satisfacti et <15> soluti erimus, Et si et quociens contigerit predictus annualis redditus superius per presentes reservatus aretro fore non solutus in parte vel in toto per vnum Mensem post finem predictorum quadraginta dierum pro <16> solucione inde limitatorum vt prefertur, Quod tunc et tocies predicti Maior Burgenses et Communitas et Successores sui forisfacient et solvent nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris sex libras tresdecim solidos <17> et quatuor denarios legalis monete Anglie (nomine pene) vltra predictum annualem redditum superius per presentes reservatum pro quolibet Mense extunc proxime sequenti in quo vel in quibus predictus annualis <18> redditus seu aliqua inde parcella aretro fuerit et insolutus modo et forma predicto, Et quod extunc et abinde de tempore in tempus tocies quociens casus sic acciderit bene liceat et licebit nobis heredibus et <19> Successoribus nostris per Ministros nostros heredum et Successorum nostrorum vel eorum aliquem pro tempore existentem in premissa predicta aut aliquam inde parcellam intrare et distringere ac districciones ibidem <20> inventas seu inveniendas capere et retinere quosque nos heredes et Successores nostri de predicto redditu vnacum arreragiis inde et omnibus forisfacturis et pecuniarum summis nomine pene forisfaciendis vt prefertur <21> plenarie satisfacti et soluti erimus, Aliquo in presentibus in contrarium non obstante, Et Vltcrius volumus ac pro consideracione predicta de vberiori gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et <22> mero motu nostris pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictae

<sup>1</sup> *predictum* in MS.

et Successoribus suis, Quod nos heredes et Successores nostri de cetero <23> imperpetuum annuatim et de tempore in tempus exonerabimus acquietabimus et indemnos conservabimus tam prefatos Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem Civitatis predictae et Successores suos quam <24> predicta Castrum terras tenementa et hereditamenta superius preconcessa cum eorum pertinentiis universis versus nos heredes et Successores nostros de et ab omnibus et omnimodis Corrodiis redditibus <25> feodis serviciis annuitatibus pensionibus porcionibus denariorum summis et oneribus quibuscunque de premissis per presentes preconcessis seu de aliqua inde parcella nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris exeuntibus <26> seu solvendis vel superinde versus nos heredes seu Successores nostros oneratis seu onerandis, Preterquam de redditibus serviciis et tenuris superius pro premissis in hiis presentibus reservatis, ac predictis <27> forisfacturis nomine pene ac preterquam de arreragiis redditum omnium et singulorum premisorum (si que sint) nobis debitis seu solvendis, Quare Volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et <28> Successoribus nostris firmiter iniungendo precipimus et mandamus tam Thesaurario Cancellario et Baronibus Scaccarii nostri heredum et Successorum nostrorum quam omnibus et singulis Auditoribus <29> Receptoribus et aliis Officiariis et Ministris nostris Heredum et Successorum nostrorum quibuscunque pro tempore existentibus, Quod ipsi et eorum quilibet super solam demonstrationem harum literarum nostrarum <30> Patencium vel irrotulamenti earundem absque aliquo alio brevi seu warranto a nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris quoquomodo impetrando seu prosequendo plenam integram debitamque allocationem <31> et exoneracionem manifestam de et ab omnibus et <sup>1</sup> omnimodis huiusmodi Corrodiis redditibus serviciis feodis annuitatibus pensionibus porcionibus denariorum summis et oneribus quibuscunque de premissis sic vt prefertur nobis heredibus et <32> Successoribus nostris exeuntibus seu solvendis, Preterquam de predictis redditibus serviciis tenuris forisfacturis et ceteris premissis in hiis presentibus reservatis ac per prefatos Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem et Successores <33> suos sic vt prefertur solvendis prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati et Successoribus suis facient et de tempore in tempus fieri causabunt, Et he litere nostre patentes vel irrotulamentum eorundem erunt dictis <34> Thesaurario Cancellario et Baronibus Scaccarii nostri predicti heredum et Successorum nostrorum ac predictis Auditoribus, Receptoribus et aliis Officiariis et Ministris nostris heredum

<sup>1</sup> *omnibus et interlineated over caret.*

et Successorum nostrorum quibuscunque <35> pro tempore existentibus sufficiens warrantum et exoneracio in hac parte, Et Vltcrius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati <36> Civitatis predictæ et Successoribus suis Quod he litere nostre patentes vel irrotulamentum earundem erunt in omnibus et per omnia firme valide bone sufficientia et effectualia in lege erga et contra nos heredes et <37> Successores nostros tam in omnibus Curiis nostris quam alibi infra regnum nostrum Anglie absque aliquibus confirmacionibus licenciis vel toleracionibus de nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris quoquomodo imposterum <38> procurandis aut obtinendis, Non Obstante male nominando vel non nominando male recitando vel non recitando predicta Castrum terras tenementa et hereditamenta et cetera premissa superius <39> per presentes preconcessa aut mencionata fore concessi aut aliquam inde partem vel parcellam Et non obstante male inveniando aut non inveniando officium vel officia aut Inquisitionem sive Inquisiciones <40> premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle per que titulus noster inveniri debuit ante confeccionem harum literarum nostrarum patencium, Et non obstante aliquo defectu sive aliquibus defectibus in non recitando aut male <41> recitando vel male mencionando aliquam vel aliquas dimissionem vel concessionem dimissiones vel concessionem donum vel dona de vel concernentia premissa seu Custodiam inde vel de aut concernentia <42> aliqua inde parte vel parcella de recordo vel non de recordo antehac facta, Et non obstante male nominando vel non nominando aliquem Comitatum Civitatem villam hamlet' locum vel parochiam <43> in quo vel in quibus premissa vel aliqua inde parcella existunt vel existit, Et non obstante aliquo defectu sive aliquibus defectibus in male nominando vel non nominando aliquem Tenentem Firmarium <44> sive Occupatorem premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle, Et non obstante aliqua variacione discrepantia sive differencia in aliqua re materia nomine sive forma inter has literas nostras patentes <45> et aliquod particularum sive supervisionem de premissis seu de aliqua inde parcella antehac factum aut inter has literas nostras<sup>1</sup> patentes et aliquas alias literas patentes de premissis aut de aliqua inde <46> parcella antehac factas aut aliquod vel aliqua recordum vel recorda Computum vel Computa premissa predicta aut aliquam inde parcellam quoquomodo tangentia sive concernentia, Et non obstante <47> aliquo defectu sive aliquibus defectibus in non mencionando vel

<sup>1</sup> nostras interlineated over caret.



non recte aut male mencionando verum annualem valorem premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle aut verum annualem redditum reservatum de in et super <48> premissis aut aliqua inde parcella specificatum in aliquo particulario supervisione Computo vel dimissione antehac facto de premissis aut eorum aliquo vel aliquibus, Et non obstante quod premissa <49> vel aliqua proficua inde aut eisdem vel eorum alicui pertinentia vnquam fuerunt melioris sive maioris valoris annualis quam in hiis literis patentibus vel aliquo particulario premissorum specificatur. Et non obstante <50> Statuto in Parlamento Domini Henrici nuper Regis Anglie sexti Antecessoris nostri Anno regni suo decimo octavo facto et edito, Et non obstante Statuto in Parlamento Domini Henrici nuper Regis Anglie <51> quarti Anno regni sui primo facto et edito, Et non obstantibus aliquibus aliis defectibus in non recte nominando aut non nominando naturas genera species quantitates aut qualitates metarum vel bundarum <52> premissorum aut alicuius inde parcelle aut aliquem vel aliquos qui antehac fuerunt vel fuit seisitus sive seisiti de premissis aut eorum aliquo vel aliquibus, Et non obstante Statuto de terris et tenementis <53> ad manum mortuam non ponendis edito et proviso, Et Vltierius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris statuimus et ordinamus quod si predicti Maior Burgenses et <54> Communitas Civitatis predictæ non irrotulabunt seu irrotulari causabunt has literas nostras patentes coram Auditore nostro Comitatus predicti vel coram Clerico nostro Pipe pro tempore existenti <55> infra spacium sex Mensium proxime sequentium post datam presencium, Quod tunc iidem Maior Burgenses et Communitas et Successores sui forisfacient ac solvent nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris <56> decem libras legalis monete Anglie nomine pene, et sic decem libras pro quibuslibet sex Mensibus in quibus he litere nostre patentes minime irrotulate remanebunt levandas et percipiendas eisdem <57> modo et forma prout predictæ forisfacture nomine pene superius in presentibus mencionate superius [*sic*] per presentes levare et percipi limitantur, Volumus etiam ac per presentes concedimus prefatis <58> Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictæ quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras patentes magno sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo magno vel parvo <59> nobis in Hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad vsum nostrum proinde quoquomodo reddendo solvendo seu faciendo, Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissorum vel eorum <60> alicuius aut de aliis donis sive concessionibus per nos

seu per aliquem Progenitorum vel Antecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis predictae ante hec tempora factis in <61> presentibus minime facta existit, Aut aliquo statuto actu ordinatione provisione proclamatione sive restrictione in contrarium inde antehac habito facto edito ordinato seu proviso aut aliqua alia re causa <62> vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante, In Cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes, Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo sexto die Octobris Anno regni <63> nostri sexto.

Wolseley

*per Breve de privato Sigillo./*

(On fold). Sexto die Novembris 1630 Irr' in Officio Clerici Pipe coram me, Antho: [Rous?<sup>1</sup>]

Ultimo Novembr' 1631 Irr' coram me Tho: Wynn, Auditor'

## XXI

### CONFIRMATION OF ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION IN PERSONAL ACTIONS 1638.

#### *Letters Patent of 9 June, 14 Charles I*

*The King, having in mind the welfare of commerce and the increase of customs revenue, grants to the city certain rights of Admiralty jurisdiction in consideration of its distance from London and of the extent of its trade. The city, "ab antiquo," has exercised the power of hearing all personal actions in Admiralty causes, and the merchants and seamen using the port need prompt settlement of their disputes. Therefore the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, or three or more of them (of whom the Mayor or Recorder is to be one), adding to their number a lawyer skilled in the Civil Law, are hereby empowered to hold at will a court of Admiralty every Wednesday in every week of the year (if necessary) in the Guildhall, or elsewhere in the city. The court shall have cognizance of all personal actions pertaining to Admiralty, whether concerning native or foreign merchants, and shall have the same powers of execution as the High Court of Admiralty.*

<sup>1</sup> Surname illegible. Sir Anthony Rouse was appointed Clerk of the Pipe on 29 July 1616 (P.R.O., Exchequer of Receipt, Miscellanea, vol. 228, n.p., sub Pipe).

and shall appoint its own officers. There are reserved to the High Court of Admiralty the right of hearing appeals, and the right to enforce within the city its own jurisdiction.

The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01243. It consists of a single membrane, 29½" wide by 29¾" long; in good condition; with decorations in the upper margin, including a portrait of the King; the seal (two segments missing), in brown wax, attached by red-and-white (? gilt) cords threaded in lozenge pattern through the folded lower margin.

*Endorsements:* A perpetuity graunted to the Mayor Burgesses and Comminalty of the City of Bristoll / per Wolseley.

James the Ist's Charter of Confirmation of the Admiralty 1617  
[James the Ist and 1617 crossed out and replaced by  
14 Charles Ist. 1640]

*Enrolment:* P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 14 Charles I, pt. 4, no. 8.

Latimer, Calendar, 155.

Carolus Dei Gracia Anglie <2> Scocie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor etc; Omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem; Sciatis quod nos considerantes quod <3> Civitas nostra Bristollie sit Civitas ampla et populosa ac ratione Commercij tam per terram quam per aquam in eadem exercitati et usitati, Mercatores tam <4> indigeni quam alienigeni<sup>1</sup> ad eam frequenter applicant, Et quamplures Naves nostre et Subditorum nostrorum et aliorum quamplurium de amicitia nostra mercandizandi causa <5> in Portu dicte Civitatis nostre et Membris eiusdem cum bonis et Mercimonijs suis sepe numero confluunt, unde Custume et Subsidia nostra magnopere <6> crescunt, Ac considerantes quod si Mercatores et Naute ibidem commorantes aut cum Navibus et Mercimonijs suis illuc confluentes sive arrivantes ratione <7> alicuius Contractus vel alie cause cuiuscunque ad cognitionem Curie nostre Admirallitatis pertinentis ad Civitatem nostram London' que longe distat ab illo pro Justicia<sup>2</sup> <8> adipiscenda in rebus que ad cognitionem Admirallitatis pertinent quociens opus fuerit venire cogantur, ad eorum detrimentum quamplurium redundaret et gravamen <9> Ac res Commercia et Mercimonia sua in dicto Portu et Civitate multociens retardarentur Cumque informamur quod Maior Burgenses et Communitas Civitatis <10> nostre Bristollie predictae potestatem et auctoritatem audiendi et

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *indigene quam alienigene*.

<sup>2</sup> The final "a" of *Justicia* written over an erasure.

terminandi omnes et omnimodos Contractus Convenciones debiti transgressionem et alias res materias et iniurias <11> personales (que ac cognitionem Admirallitatis pertinent) infra dictam Civitatem nostram ab antiquo exercuerunt, volentesque quod Portus predictus et omnia Creca <12> littora et loca Maritima ad eundem pertinentia, ac Navigatio et commercium in eodem continue preserventur et manuteneantur prout decet, Ac volentes quod <13> plena et celeris Justitia tam inter Mercatores quam alios in omnibus rebus et materiis que ad cognitionem Admirallitatis pertinent in dicta Civitate nostra continue <14> fiat et exercatur, De gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris dedimus concessimus et confirmavimus, Ac per presentes pro nobis <15> Heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus concedimus et confirmamus Dilectis Subditis nostris Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis nostre Bristollie et Successoribus suis imperpetuum, quod Maior <16> Recordator et Aldermanni dicte Civitatis qui nunc sunt, aut qui imposterum pro tempore fuerint aut aliqui tres vel plurimi eorundem pro tempore existentes, quorum Maior vel Recordator dicte Civitatis <17> pro tempore existens vnum esse volumus (convocato sibi pro eorum meliori informacione cum opus fuerit uno aliquo in Iure Civile perito) possint ad eorum libitum tenere Curiam Admirallitatis <18> de omnibus Placitis et Querelis personalibus que ad Admirallitatem pertinent quolibet die Martis in qualibet Septimana per totum Annum perpetuis futuris temporibus si necesse fuerit in <19> Guihalda eiusdem Civitatis vel alibi infra Precinctus dicte Civitatis Portus libertatum et Precinctum eiusdem et in eadem Curie iudicialiter sedeant et procedant, et potestatem et auctoritatem in <20> eadem habeant et exercent ad audiendum terminandum et exequendum omnes et singulas Acciones debitorum Contractuum Convencionum et alias res et iniurias personales inter aliquos Subditos nostros <21> heredum vel Successorum nostrorum vel inter alios quoscunque sive indigenos sive alienigenos ortas seu oriundas motas seu movendas, si partes sint inventas vel bona Navigia Res vel Mercimonia sua infra <22> dictos Civitatem Portum limites vel precinctus eorundem inveniantur capiantur aut attachiantur, Et que ad Officium Admirallitatis pertinent seu pertinere poterint et debeant, Et quod eadem <23> Placita sive Querela ad Iudicium possint deducere et execucionem facere et determinare valeant in tam amplis et consimilibus modo et forma prout magnis Admirallus noster Anglie aut <24> eius locumtenens vel Iudex supreme

Curie Admirallitatis nostre Anglie tenet seu tenere consuevit in suprema Curia nostra Admirallitatis quoad Cognicionem Triacionem prosecutionem et <25> determinacionem eorundem Placitorum et Querelorum personalium sive eorum alicuius. Et per tot et talia processus Iudicia, Execuciones et alia inde fienda qualia in dicta Curia nostra Admirallitatis usitantur et approbantur <26> Et quod dicti Maior, Recordator et Aldermanni et aliqui tres vel plurimi eorum pro tempore existentes quorum Maior vel Recordator unum esse volumus possint nominare constituere et <27> deputare Officiarios Registraros Notarios Attornatos Scribas Procuratores, Mareschallos Servientes et alios Ministros quoscunque necesarios et idoneos ad prosequendum exequendum et determinandum <28> omnia<sup>1</sup> et omnimoda huiusmodi Acciones Placita querela Processus Actus Sectas Queremonia Iudicia Sentencie execuciones et alias res quascunque, que in dicta Curia infra dictam Civitatem fieri necessarias fuerint in et <29> circa execucionem premissorum, Ita quod aliqua pars per aliquod Ordinacionem Iudicium sive Sentenciam gravata et in dicta Curie Admirallitatis Bristollie redditum, possit appellare pro remedio suo ad <30> supremam nostram Curiam Admirallitatis coram magno Admirallo nostro sive eius Locumtenente vel Iudice supreme Curie Admirallitatis nostre heredum vel Successorum nostrorum tenendam; Et Ita quod <31> bene liceat et licebit magno Admirallo Anglie sive eius Locumtenenti et alios Officiariis et Ministris supreme Curie Admirallitatis nostre heredum vel Successorum nostrorum pro tempore existentibus ad omnia <32> tempore intrare facere et exercere infra Civitatem predictam et limitates et Precinctus eiusdem ac Portum Civitatis ac Membra eiusdem totum et quicquid ad Officium Admirallitatis vel aliud Servitium <33> nostrum heredum vel Successorum nostrorum pro negotijs fieri foret conveniens et necessarium Habenda gaudenda, utenda et exercenda omnia et singula premissa ut prefertur concessa eisdem <34> Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati et Successoribus suis imperpetuum; Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo vel de certitudine premissorum sive eorum alicuius aut de aliis Donis sive <35> Concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum sive Predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit, Aut aliquo <36> Statuto Actu Ordinacione Provisione Proclamacione sive Restrictione in contrarium inde antehac habito facto edito

<sup>1</sup> omnes in MS.

ordinato sive proviso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque <37> in aliquo non obstante, In Cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes; Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium Nono die Junij Anno regni nostri Quarto-decimo /

per Breve de privato Sigillo.<sup>1</sup> /

Wolseley.

## XXII

### FREE AND GENERAL PARDON, 1644

*Letters Patent (Pardon) of 24 February, 19 Charles I (1643/4).*

*The King, on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors, grants a free and general pardon to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of Bristol, and (with certain exceptions) to all who were in the city on 26 July 1643, for all offences against common law or statute law committed between 2 November 1640 and 30 July 1643.<sup>2</sup> The crimes covered by the pardon include high and petty treason, rebellion, conspiracy, felony, burglary, murder, arson, premunire, riot and breach of the peace. All indictments, judgements and punishments concerning such offences are stopped, and the pardon is to be effective in all royal courts without mention of particular names or offences, and without further order to any royal officer. In addition, the King restores all offenders' property forfeited to the Crown during this period.*

*But the King excludes from the pardon the men responsible for that "bloody and detestable murder" of Robert Yeamans and George Bouchier, i.e. Nathaniel Fiennes, Richard Cole, Walter White, James Ford, John Clifton, John Champneys, Thomas Hipplesley, Martin Husband, Thomas Rawleigh, Richard Hipplesley, Thomas Eyre, Thomas Goodere, James Heane, Thomas Wallis, William Dowell, Robert Baugh, Clement Walker and—Herbert (Provost-Marshall).<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> There is added in the margin at this point, (1640).

<sup>2</sup> 26 July, 1643, was the date of the surrender of the city to Rupert; 2 November, 1640 was the day before the assembly of the Long Parliament.

<sup>3</sup> These were members of a court-martial; see *supra* pp. 64-5.

*The King also excludes from the scope of the pardon a number of matters affecting his revenue from the Crown estates and royal prerogatives in Bristol. They include abduction or illegal marriage of virgins or widows, alienation of Crown property without licence, wastage of land in wardship, evasion of subsidies or customs duties, perjury in royal courts, fabrication or alteration of charters or other legal instruments, purloining of goods for other purposes than those of war, malpractices of officers of the royal demesne, and fines and penalties imposed in any court of record at Westminster.*

*Finally, for the further satisfaction of anyone included in this general pardon, the King will grant, if humble petition be made, a particular pardon in the petitioner's own name.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01258. It consists of a single skin, 26½" wide by 24" long, damaged by damp and frayed at the folds, so that several words and passages are illegible,<sup>1</sup> with a few simple elaborations of letters in line; a seal of brown wax, in good condition, attached by a parchment tab inserted through a slit in the folded bottom margin.*

*Endorsement: A [? Special] Perdon graunted to the Mayor Burgesses [and] Commonalty of the Citty of Bristoll / Willys.*

*Enrolment: There is no enrolment preserved in the P.R.O.*

*Translation: C.T. 01265 (? Early 19th century). Unfinished (only to line 18), inaccurate and incomplete.*

*Latimer, Calendar, 155-6.*

Carolus dei gratia Anglie Scocie Francie & Hibernie Rex fidei defensor etc.; Omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint Salutem; Sciatis quod nos pietate moti de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia & mero <2> motu nostris pardonauimus remisimus & relaxauimus Ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & Successoribus nostris pardonamus remittimus & relaxamus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Ciuitatis Bristollie alias dictis Maiori & Communitati Ciuitatis Bristollie <3> alias dictis Maiori & Communitati Ville Bristollie alias dictis Burgensibus ville Bristollie seu quocunque alio nomine iidem Maior Burgenses & Communitas Ciuitatis Bristollie<sup>2</sup> predicti censeantur necnon

<sup>1</sup> These have been supplied from the similar instrument granted to Barnstaple, which was examined on my behalf through the kind offices of Mr. A. E. Blackwell, of the North Devon Athenaeum.

<sup>2</sup> Bristollie interlineated over caret.

omnibus & singulis personis quibuscunque adeo plene ad omne intencionem & <4> propositum ac si hic particulariter nominatis que vicesimo sexto die Iulii ultimo preterito fuerint vel extiterint personaliter presentes ad aliqua vel aliquod tempora vel tempus eiusdem diei in vel infra Civitatem Bristollie predictam & earum cuilibet (Exceptis tantummodo talibus personis que inferius <5> nominantur fore extra hanc pardonacionem nostram) omnes & omnimodas prodiciones tam maiores quam minores levaciones Guerre Rebelliones Insurrecciones ac Conspiraciones ac Mispri-siones omnium & singularum prodicionum & omnes & omnimodas felonias Burglarias Roberias Furtas et omnes & omnimodas <6> neces mortes & felonicas interfecciones & quicquid aliquo modo tangit vel concernet necem mortem vel feloniam interfeccionem aliquarum vel alicuius personarum vel persone qualitercunque perpetratam, felonicum domium incendium Ac omnia & omnimoda Escapia & Evasiones tam voluntaria quam non <7> voluntaria & Negligentia quorumcunque Proditorum Murdratorum homicidiorum & felonorum aut Accessariorum aut suspectorum eorundem, Necnon generaliter omnes & singulas prodiciones & felonias quascunque tam contra communem legem Regni nostri Anglie quam contra quecunque Statuta Actus Ordinaciones <8> sive Provisiones eiusdem Regni nostri antehac edita ordinata siue provisiva aut eorum aliquod, Ac omnes & omnimodos Accessarios quorumcunque Feloniarum Burglariarum & aliarum Feloniarum quarumcunque & fugam & fugas superinde factas Necnon omnia & singula Offensa puniciones & Forisfactura <9> quecunque de Premunire seu comuniter cognita per idem nomen Aceciam omnia & omnimoda abusiva defaltas & errores in male regimine siue gubernacione Civitatis seu ville predictae ac omnia & omnimoda ingressus Manuforti factas routas riotas illicitas assemblaciones Congregaciones <10> Conventiculos Confederaciones Conspiraciones Coadunaciones illicitas verborum prolaciones illicita pacta vota Iuramenta & protestaciones vel eorum aut alicuius eorum prestaciones aut suscepiones verberaciones vulneraciones transgressiones oppressiones decepiones Malegesturas <11> & fracciones pacis Necnon generaliter eciam omnia & omnimoda alia crimina Malefacta offensa & iniurias quecunque tam contra communem legem Regni nostri Anglie quam contra quecunque Statuta Actus Ordinaciones sive Provisiones eiusdem Regni nostri antehac edita <12> ordinata siue provisiva aut eorum aliquod per predictos Maiorem Burgenses & Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie siue per predictas personas que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra



Civitatem predictam siue per aliquas vel aliquam earum personarum (exceptis preexceptis) per se solas <13> sive solam siue cum aliquibus vel aliqua aliis vel alia personis vel persona qualitercunque quandocunque siue vbicunque inter secundum diem Nouembris Anno regni nostri decimo sexto Annoque Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo & quadragesimo & tricesimum diem Iulii vltimo <14> preteritum habita facta commissa sive perpetrata (Exceptis omnibus & omnimodis materiis causis & Offensis que recitantur mencionantur aut aliquo modo tanguntur in excepcione inferius in hiis presentibus subsequenter licet predicti Maior Burgenses & Communitas Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae aut <15> persone predictae que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra Ciuitatem predictam vel earum aliquis vel aliqui (exceptis qui inferius excipiuntur) de premissis vel eorum aliquibus vel aliquo indictati appellati rectati adiudicati utlagati condemnati convicti vel attincti existunt <16> vel non existunt existit vel non existit aut inde indictari appellari rectari utlagari condemnari convinci attingi sive adiudicari contigerint aut contigerit in futuro; Pardonamus eciam remittimus et relaxamus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati <17> Ciuitatis Bristollie predictae & omnibus & singulis personis predictis que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra ciuitatem predictam & cuilibet earum (exceptis preexceptis), omnia & singula Indictamenta Iudicata Condemnationes execuciones penas mortis penas corporales Imprisonamenta <18> Manus cauterizaciones puniciones ac omnes alias penas & penalitates quascunque que nos versus predictos Maiorem Burgenses & Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie<sup>1</sup> vel versus predictas personas que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra Ciuitatem predictam vel earum aliquas vel <19> aliquam (exceptis preexceptis) pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum habuimus vel habemus seu in futuro habere poterimus aut heredes seu Successores nostri habere poterint in futuro aut que pro nobis antehac reddite facte siue adiudicate fuerint aut que imposterum pro nobis heredibus vel <20> Successoribus nostris habende fiende seu adiudicande forent quoquomodo de aut pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum ac Vtlagarie si que versus predictos Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie vel versus predictas personas que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel <21> infra Civitatem predictam vel earum aliquas vel aliquam solas sive solam sive cum aliquibus vel aliqua personis vel persona (exceptis

<sup>1</sup> *Bristollie* interlineated over caret.

preexceptis), promulgate sive imposterum erunt promulgande de aut pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum ac omnes & omnimodas Sectas querelas <22> impeticiones & demaunda quecunque que nos versus predictos Maiorem Burgenses Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie sive versus predictas personas que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra civitatem predictam seu earum aliquas vel aliquam (exceptis preexceptis) pro premissis vel aliquo <23> premissorum respective habuimus habemus seu in futuro habere poterimus aut heredes seu Successores nostri habere poterint in futuro Sectamque pacis nostre que ad nos versus predictos Maiorem Burgenses et Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie sive versus predictas personas que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in <24> vel infra Civitatem predictam seu earum aliquas vel aliquam (exceptis preexceptis) pertinet seu pertinere poterit ratione premissorum vel eorum alicuius Et firmam pacem nostram predictis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie & predictis personis que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in <25> vel infra predictam Civitatem et earum cuilibet (exceptis preexceptis) damus et concedimus per presentes, Et Vltorius de vberiori gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia & mero motu nostris damus & concedimus & restituimus pro nobis heredibus & Successoribus nostris prefatis Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati <26> Civitatis Bristollie et predictis personis que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra Ciuitatem predictam & earum cuilibet respective (exceptis preexceptis) omnia & omnimoda Forisfactura & deperdita omnium & singulorum Bonorum & Catallorum terrarum tenementorum ac hereditamentorum suorum <27> quorumcunque nobis occasione premissorum forisfactorum sive deperditorum in quorumcunque sive cuiuscunque manibus aut possessione iam existunt aut existere debent; Habenda & gaudenda respective eis heredibus Successoribus & Assignatoribus suis ex dono nostro imperpetuum Ac capienda in <28> quorumcunque manibus & possessione illa seperaliter existunt absque Compoto seu aliquo alio inde nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris reddendo solvendo vel faciendo; Et Vltorius ex vberiori gracia nostra speciali volumus & concedimus quod hec presens libera & generalis pardonacio per <29> generalia verba Clausula & Sentencias supradicta ac licet absque particularia mencione nominis alicuius particularie persone aut particularia mencione alicuius particularii Offensi criminis aut Malefacti aut nature generis aut speciei nonnullorum Offensorum criminum aut Malefactorum aut aliquorum vel <30>

alicuius processuum vel processus superinde construatur interpretetur exponatur et adiudicetur in omnibus Curiis nostris & alibi in beneficentissimo & benignissimo sensu & pro maxima & firmiori exoneratione prefatorum Maioris Burgensium et Communitatis Civitatis Bristollie & predictarum personarum que sic vt prefertur fuerint <31> vel extiterint in vel infra Civitatem predictam & earum cuiuslibet (exceptis preexceptis) secundum veram intencionem nostram absque aliqua ambiguitate questione seu dilatione quacunque & in tam beneficialibus modo & forma & ad omnes intenciones & proposita prout si persone que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel <32> extiterint in vel infra Civitatem predictam & earum quelibet<sup>1</sup> fuissent vel fuisset per seperalia nomina vel nomen cognomina vel cognomen cum omni vltiori certitudine hisce superius in omnibus pardunate vel pardonata & prout si predicta Offensa Contemptus Forisfactura penalitates res iudicia execuciones <33> & cetera premissa per apta expressa & specialia verba pardonata remissa et relaxata fuissent; Volumus Eciam & concedimus quod he littere nostre Patentes erunt in omnibus & per omnia firme valide efficaces & effectuales in lege & (quod in hac parte eciam precipimus omnibus Iudicibus <34> Iusticiariis & aliis Ministris sive Officiariis nostris) allocabuntur absque aliquo brevi vel vltiori Mandato seu warranto in omnibus Curiis nostris et alibi infra hoc Regnum nostrum Anglie Et volumus & concedimus quod dehinc nullo modo deuenienti vacuo licet predictis personis que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint <35> in vel infra Civitatem predictam vel earum aliquas vel aliquam non inueniant vel non inueniat bonam & sufficientem securitatem iuxta formam & effectum cuiusdam Actus Parliamenti Domini Edwardi nuper Regis Anglie tercii progenitoris nostri Anno regni sui decimo apud Westmonasterium tenti editi <36> de se bene gerendo exnunc erga nos heredes & Successores nostros & cunctum<sup>2</sup> populum nostrum Statuto predicto non obstante, Et licet nulla suggestio in hac libera pardonacione nostra contineatur, Et non obstantibus Statutis in Parliamentis predicti Domini Edwardi nuper Regis Anglie tercii Antecessoris <37> nostri Annis Regni sui secundo quarto decimo quarto & vicesimo septimo factis & editis Et non obstantibus Statutis in Parliamentis Domini Ricardi nuper Regis Anglie secundi Annis Regni sui decimo tercio & decimo sexto factis & editis Aut aliquo alio Actu Statuto Ordinacione re sive Materia in aliquo non <38> obstante, Nolentes

<sup>1</sup> *quelibet* written over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> MS. has *cunctum*.

quod predicti Maior Burgenses & Communitas Civitatis Bristollie aut persone predictæ que sic vt prefertur fuerint vel extiterint in vel infra Ciuitatem predictam vel earum aliquæ vel aliqua (exceptis preexceptis) per Vicecomites Iusticiarios Escaetores Ballivos seu alios Ministros nostros <39> heredum vel Successorum nostrorum occasionibus predictis molestentur occasionentur perturbentur molestetur occasionentur perturbetur seu in aliquo graventur vel grauetur, Ita tamen quod respectue stent et eorum quilibet stet recto in Curia nostra si quis versus eos vel earum aliquas vel aliquam loqui voluerit de premissis <40> vel aliquo premissorum; Exceptis tamen semper extra hanc pardonacionem nostram hiis quorum nomina subsequuntur videlicet Nathaniele Fienis Ricardo Cole Waltero White Jacobo Ford Johanne Clifton Johanne Champneyes Thoma Hippesley Martino Husband Thoma Rawlegh <41> Ricardo Hippesley Thoma Eyre Thoma Goodere Jacobo Heane Thoma Wallys Willelmo Dowell Roberto Baugh Clemente Walker &—<sup>1</sup> Herbert nuper prefecto rerum capitalium Anglice Provost Marshall apud Bristolliam predictam qui omnes actores Consiliatores vel coadiutores <42> fuerunt vel extiterunt in sanguinolenti & detestando illo murthero Roberti Yeoman & Georgii Bouchier nuper civium dicte Civitatis Bristollie defunctorum apud Bristolliam predictam facto & perpetrato; Exceptis eciam semper & extra has presentes omnino forisprisatis omnibus & singulis abductoribus <43> et Maritacionibus aut Maritagiis alicuius Virginis vidue vel puelle contra voluntatem suam vel sine Assensu suo aut Agreemento Parentum eius vel eorum qui eam tunc in Custodia sua habuerunt omnibus Auxiliacionibus Comfortacionibus seu procuracionibus eorundem Necnon omnibus intrusionibus <44> ingressibus intracionibus spoliacionibus aut vastis habitis seu factis in vel super Maneria [terras] tenementa [vel] hereditamenta nostra et omnibus vastis factis commissis sive permissis super talia Maneria terra tenementa hereditamenta Necnon [omnibus et omnimodis iniustis capcionibus] exitibus Reditibus reuencionibus <45> Maneriorum terrarum tenementorum aut hereditamentorum nostrorum & omnibus sectis comp[osicionibus] impedicionibus de & pro iisdem Necnon omnibus & singulis Alienacionibus aliquorum terrarum tenementorum aut hereditamentorum sine licencia & omnibus finibus exitibus & proficuis que possunt vel debent accrescere vel devenire nobis racione <46> talis Alienacionis sive licencia. Necnon omnibus vastis factis sive commissis [in] aliquibus terris wardorum

<sup>1</sup> Christian name left blank in MS.

nostrorum vel terris wardorum aliquibus aliis per nos commissis vel concessis & omnibus & singulis finibus pro simplici vel duplici valore Maritagii vel Maritagiorum omnium & singulorum wardorum & wardarum <47> nostrorum Necnon omnibus raptibus & iniustiis capcionibus aut detencionibus aliquorum [wardorum] nostrorum vel terris wardorum nostrorum vel redditibus & proficuis eorundem & omnibus Malefactis & offensis eadem concernentibus & omni re quacunque que ratione alicuius wardi vel terrarum alicuius wardi aut pro defectu sequendi aut <48> prosequendi liberacionem eorundem debet nobis devenire esse aut remanere Necnon omnibus finibus que nobis accrescere debent aliquarum viduarum que sine licencia maritaverunt Necnon omnibus & singulis subtraccionibus detencionibus concelamentis decepcionibus & falsitatibus alicuius Subsidiis sive Custume <49> magne sive parue & de pro & concernentibus aliqua debita Compota Arreragia debitorum aut compotorum alicuius Subsidiis sive Custume Necnon de aut pro aliqua re causa vel materia subsidia Custumas aut debita pecuniarum summarum aut soluciones pro aliquibus merchandizis vel pro vel concernentibus importacionem <50> vel exportacionem aliquarum Merchandizarum nobis solubilia vel aliquo modo spectantia seu pertinentia aliquialiter tangentia vel concernentia & omnibus Compotis Sectis & impeticionibus pro eisdem Necnon omnibus subtraccionibus decepcionibus concelamentis & Arreragiis Compotorum Maneriorum terrarum proficuorum Redditum aut <51> Revencionum nostrarum aut aliquam partem eorundem aliquo modo tangentibus sive concernentibus Necnon decepcionibus per Officiarios Ministros & operarios in circa aut concernentibus Officinas monetarias nostras Necnon periuribus aut subornacionibus periuris in aliquibus sectis sive placitis in aliquibus Curiis nostris & falsitatibus <52> fabricacionibus Chartarum Munimentorum<sup>1</sup> siue Scriptorum quorumcunque & publicacionibus eorundem Necnon omnibus capcionibus & surrepcionibus anglice taking purloynning or imbezelling monetas localium bonorum aut Catalorum nostrorum Aliter quam Arma Amuniciones & Instrumenta belli & aliarum rerum que ad belli <53> vsus pertinent Necnon extorcionibus repetundis corrupcionibus fraudibus decepcionibus malefactis et Offensis quibuscunque factis sive commissis per aliquem Seneschallum alicuius Manerii sive Curie nostre Subvicecomitis Officiarii sive Ministri in aliqua Curia nostra in aut ratione aut colore aliquorum

<sup>1</sup> *Minimentorum* in MS.

Officiorum seu <54> locorum suorum sive per Deputatos aut Clericos suos & Auxiliatores et Comfortatores eorum. Necnon omnibus Offensis pro & in abracione<sup>1</sup> rasura & interlineacione aliquorum Recordorum Rotulorum brevium warrantorum recognicionum sive aliorum Memorandorum nostrorum & Auxiliatoribus & Comfortatoribus eorum Necnon omnibus falsis <55> fabricacionibus Commissionum ad inquirendum de terris tenementis seu hereditamentis & alicuius false certificacionis & retorni alicuius Commissionis ex aliquibus Curii obtente ad inquirendum de terris tenementis & hereditamentis & falsificacionis alicuius particularii aut bille per nos signati post ingrossa[mentum] <56> inde & antequam veniat ad magnum Sigillum Necnon omnibus finibus & exitibus & amerciamentis forisfacturis predictis impositis seu assessis levatis aut receptis per aliquem Vicecomitem Subvicecomitem Ballivum Ministrum aut alium Officiarium ad vsum nostrum & omnibus exitibus finibus & amerciamentis ante predictum tricesimum diem<sup>2</sup> Julii retornatis <57> offeratis & taxatis impositis aut intratis in aliqua Curia de Recordo apud Westmonasterium,<sup>3</sup> Necnon omnibus penalitatibus Forisfacturis & pecuniarum summis, nobis debitis racione alicuius Actus siue Statuti que conversa sunt in debitum seu in naturam debiti per aliquod Iudicium <58> ordinem seu decretum seu per aliquod Agreementum Offendens ante predictum tricesimum diem Julii aut pro quibus aliquod veredictum pro nobis obtentum vel datum est in aliquo secto ante predictum tricesimum diem Julii Necnon omnibus & omnimodis Offensis in edificandum aut construendum aliquos Domos <59> Edificia aut Structura aut in dividendum tenementa aut in capiendum vel recipiendum aliquem Cohabitandum in vno Domo Anglice Inmates aut in includendum vel Clausurum de novo faciendum & aliis nocumentis quibuscunque in aliquo loco infra Ciuitatem London' aut Suburbia eiusdem aut <60> infra tria Miliaria a dicta Ciuitate contra leges huius Regni aut aliquam proclamacionem regiam superinde factam commissis aut perpetratis; Volumus eciam & pro nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris concedimus pro vltiori satisfaccione omnium quorum interesse possit quod super humilem petitionem <61> vnuscuuscuque persone que sic vt prefertur predicto vicesimo sexto die Julii vltimo preterito in vel infra Civitatem Bristollie predictam fuit aut extiterit (exceptis preexceptis) nobis

<sup>1</sup> More usually *abrasione*.

<sup>2</sup> MS. has *die*.

<sup>3</sup> An erasure follows *Westmonasterium* in MS.

& heredibus & Successoribus nostris infra duodecem menses proxime sequentes post datum presencium per se aut per aliquem alium ex parte <62> sua porrigendam aut exhibendam Nos heredes & Successores nostri pro vltiori securitate vniuscuiuscunque talis persone cuius indemnitatem in tantum prouidebimus graciose dignabimus per alias literas Patentes sub magno Sigillo Anglie sigillatas talem personam per suum particularum nomen vltiorem nostram <63> pardonacionem sine dilacione & absque omni vltiori molestacione in hac parte causanda concedere de pro vel concernentem omnia & singula premissa premencionata fore pardonatam in tam amplis modo & forma prout ea omnia & singula in hisce presentibus preantea pardonari mencionantur vel intenduntur ; <64> Eo Quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissorum vel eorum alicuius aut de aliis Donis sive Concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum sive Predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis Bristollie ante hec tempora factis in <65> presentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo Statuto Actu Ordinacione Provisione Proclamacione sive Restrictione in contrarium inde antehac habito facto edito ordinato seu proviso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante ; In Cuius Rei testimonium has <66> literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes, Teste me ipso apud Oxon' vicesimo quarto die Februarii Anno regni nostri decimo nono ; /

Willys

*per breve de privato Sigillo*

### XXIII

#### GENERAL CONFIRMATION, 1664

##### *Letters Patent (Inspeximus) of 22 April, 16 Charles II*

*Recites and confirms the General Confirmation of 18 August, 2 Charles I (1626) [supra p. 144], the Letters Patent of 13 April, 5 Charles I (1629) [supra pp. 144-9] and of 26 October, 6 Charles I (1630) [supra pp. 150-62], and in addition requires all burgesses and officers of the city to take the oaths of obedience and supremacy.*

*Endorsements : . . . Bristol Charter                      Howard*

*A<sup>o</sup> 16 : Car : 2 : 22 : Apr. /*

[In a later hand] (16 Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> 22 April 1664).

[In a later hand] *In the Exchequer Between the Mayor Burghesses & Commonalty of the City of Bristol—Complt, and Wm. Miles—Deft. Oct. 17 1785. At the Execution of a commission for Examination of Witnesses in this cause, this Writing was produced & shewn to James Kirkpatrick and by him deposed to at the time of his examination to the tenth Interrogatory on the Plaintiffs Parts. Before us (signed) Thos Symons, Thom<sup>s</sup> Ward, Nathan' [Winter],<sup>1</sup> Tho. Jones.*

[This entry is repeated, with the substitution, as defendants, of Henry Cruger and John Mallard].

*The original is preserved in the City Archives, C.T. 01246, and consists of nineteen membranes, measuring 34½" in width, and in length 29" (m.1), 27" (mm. 2-18), and 16" (m.19). The whole is in good condition. There are elaborate decorations in the top- and side-margins of m.1, which include an excellent portrait of the King, the Royal Arms (signed Daniell Storer fecit 1664), and King Charles' spaniels. A broken seal in green wax (preserved in a box) is attached by gilt and silver cords to the folded lower margin in the usual fashion.<sup>2</sup>*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 16 Charles II., pt. 10, no. 1, (occupying the entire part).*

*Copies:*

- (a) *Bristol Charters MSS. (C.T. 08225). A contemporary copy; tolerably accurate, with cross-headings added in the margins; 244 pp.*
- (b) *MSS. Rawlinson, Statutes 47, Summary Catal. no. 15900, pp. 1-138 (Bodleian Library, Oxford); made from the enrolment.*
- (c) *Charters of the City of Bristol (C.T.04382); c. 1805; taken from (b) for Seyer; 78 fos.<sup>3</sup>*

*Printed copy and translation: Seyer, Charters, 235-7 and passim.*

<sup>1</sup> Surname supplied from endorsement on Letters Patent, 12 February, 1 Edward IV (1462), C.T. 01225.

<sup>2</sup> Seyer's statement that the original was lost (*Charters*, p. viii) is wrong. The mistake is due to a confusion with Charter XXIV.

<sup>3</sup> This is presumably the transcript on which Seyer based his *Charters*; of. Seyer, *Charters*, p. viii. According to a receipt in the MS. he paid 7 guineas for it in November, 1805.



*Translations :*

- (1) C.T. 04380; unlabelled volume; late 17th century; in several hands; made from the original.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) Charters of Charles II (C.T. 04381), pp. 1-116; late 17th century<sup>2</sup>; in two hands; made from the enrolment.
- (3) The Old Charter of Y<sup>e</sup> City of Bristol (C.T. 09231 [1]), pp. 1-114 (from the enrolment); late 17th century;<sup>3</sup> volume presented to the corporation in 1931, and therefore not included in the list of translations given in vol. i, p. xxii.
- (4) The Old Charter of Y<sup>e</sup> City of Bristol . . . . (C.T. 04391), pp. 1-85; a later and more splendid edition of (3); 18th century, before 1740.<sup>4</sup>
- (5) [printed] F. Farley, Bristol, The City Charters . . . (1736), 3-201; inaccurate.<sup>5</sup>
- (6) The Charters of Bristol (C.T. 04390); pp. 1-76; 18th century, before 1740<sup>6</sup>; volume originally belonging to John Bartlett, Mayor 1741-2.

M.C.R. 1159; Latimer, *Calendar*, 158-9.

Carolus Secundus Dei Gratia <2> Anglie Scocie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor &c Omnibus ad quos presentes Litere pervenerint Salutem Inspeximus Literas Patentes <3> Precharissimi Patris nostri Domini Caroli Primi nuper Regis Anglie de Confirmatione in hec verba . . . [Here follows a recital of 18 August, 2 Charles I, to m. 19, line 17] . . . Nos Autem Seperales Cartas et Literas Patentes predictas ac omnia et singula in eisdem contenta et specificata rata habentes et grata ea pro nobis heredibus <18> et Successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est acceptamus et approbamus ac ea nunc Maiori Burgensibus et Comunitati Civitatis<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For the origin of this translation, see C.C.P., 1659-75, p. 115.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *infra*, p. 182 n. 2.

<sup>3</sup> This volume probably derives from the efforts made c. 1696-9 to put the City's "writings" in order, cf. C.C.P., 1687-1702, fos. 143 b-144 b, 178 b-179 b.

<sup>4</sup> According to a note on the end-papers, this volume was once the property of Thomas Farr, of the Town Clerk's office. Farr was Registrar of the Court of Conscience from 1747 till his death in 1760. See *infra* p. 213.

<sup>5</sup> For the circumstances in which this collection was made, see *Annals*, iii. 194-5.

<sup>6</sup> See *infra* p. 213.

<sup>7</sup> *Civitatis* interlineated over caret.

Bristollie et Successoribus suis Ratificamus et Confirmamus prout seperales Carte et <19> litere Patentes in se rationabiliter testantur Et Ulterius Volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris Ordinamus et firmiter iniungendo Precipimus quod Maior <20> Burgenses Aldermanni Recordator et Communis Clericus et omnes alij Officiarij et Ministri Civitatis nostre de Bristollia predictae et eorum Deputati Necnon omnes Iusticiarij ad Pacem nostram heredum et <21> successorum nostrorum infra Civitatem predictam virtute aut secundum tenorem earundem Literarum Patencium seu aliquarum aliarum Literarum Patencium imposterum nominandi eligendi seu Constituendi <22> antequam ipsi<sup>1</sup> ad Execucionem sive exercitum Officij vel Officiorum loci vel locorum cui vel quibus sic respective imposterum in forma predicta nominati electi sive Constituti fuerint admittantur aut aliquialiter <23> in ea parte intromittant seu eorum aliquis respective intromittat tam Sacramentum Corporale comuniter vocatum The Oath of Obedience quam Sacramentum Corporale comuniter vocatum The Oath of <24> Supremacy super Sacrosanctis Dei Evangelijs prestabunt et quilibet eorum prestabit coram tali Persona sive talibus Personis quales et que ad huiusmodi sacramentum dandum et prestandum per legem et <25> Statuta huius Regni Anglie ad presens appunctuantur et designantur aut imposterum appunctuati vel designati fuerit In Cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes, Teste Me <26> ipso apud Westmonasterium Vicesimo Secundo die Aprilis Anno Regni nostri Decimo Sexto :

Howard

*Per breue de Priuato Sigillo**Pro fine twenty pounds.*

## XXIV

## CHARTER OF RECONSTITUTION, 1684

*Letters Patent of 2 June, 36 Charles II*

*The King, having in mind the improvement of the city and the need for an undoubted and certain manner of keeping the peace there,*

<sup>1</sup> *ipsi* interlineated over caret.

grants, on the humble petition of the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty, that Bristol shall be and for ever shall remain a "City incorporate and county by itself", within the same boundaries as in the past twenty years, and that the citizens and inhabitants and their successors shall be a body politic by the name of "The Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the City of Bristol", and shall have a common seal.

The King appoints Sir William Clutterbuck, Knight, as Mayor until 15 September following, with all the powers which Mayors have held in the past. He and his successors are to take the oath of allegiance, the oaths appointed in the Corporation Act,<sup>1</sup> and the oaths usually administered to Mayors in the past twenty years, before their immediate predecessor, or the Recorder, or the senior Alderman.

The King also nominates Nathaniel Driver and Edmund Arundell, Esquires, as Sheriffs until 15 September following, with all the powers which have been held by sheriffs in the past. They and their successors are to take the oath of allegiance, the oaths appointed by the Corporation Act, and the usual oaths of office, before the Mayor. A Common Council of the better and more discreet burgesses and inhabitants, not exceeding 43 in number, including the Mayor and Aldermen, is appointed to assist the Mayor. It is to consist of Sir John Churchill, Sir Robert Cann, John Lawford, Esquire, Sir Robert Yeamans, John Hickes, Esquire, William Crabb, Esquire, Sir Richard Crumpe, Joseph Creswicke, Esquire, Sir Richard Hart, Thomas Eston, Esquire, Sir William Clutterbuck, William Hayman, Esquire, John Romsey, Esquire (Town Clerk), Sir John Knight, Abraham Saunders, John Combe, John Moore, William Swymmer, Richard Lane, George Hart, Nathaniel Driver, Edmund Arundell, William Merrick, George Morgan, Giles Merrick, John Sandford, James Twyford, Walter Gunter, Robert Dowding, George Morris, Anthony Swymmer, John Yeamans, Edward Tocknell, John Olliffe, Robert Yate, John Whiteing, James Pope, Henry Combe, John Bradway, Robert Smith, John Hollister, mercer, Scarborough Chapman and Richard Gibbons, Gentlemen. They are appointed for life, and each of them is to take before the Mayor the oath of allegiance, the oaths appointed in the Corporation Act, and the oath of office. If any should die or be removed, the Council or a majority of them are to elect a successor at their next meeting, so that the full number is maintained. They are to make ordinances for the government of the city by majority vote (including the Mayor), and to enforce them by penalties fixed by majority vote (including the Mayor). They are to have all the powers

<sup>1</sup> 13 Charles II, Stat. 2.

*formerly exercised by the Common Council of Bristol, but their ordinances are not to be valid for more than one year unless approved by the Lord Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal, or the Chief Justice of either Bench, or any two of them. The Council is to meet every 15 September and by majority vote (including the Mayor) is to elect the new Mayor, the Sheriffs and all the other officers usually elected at that time. The Sheriffs are to be burgesses, but not necessarily Councilmen. If the Mayor should die or be removed, or be unable or unwilling to hold office, then the Council shall be summoned by the Recorder or the senior Alderman, to elect a successor. In the case of a similar vacancy in the shrievalty, the Mayor is to summon an election meeting. The person elected in such cases shall continue in office as long as the officer replaced would have continued, unless he is elected again.*

*The King appoints the present Recorder (Sir John Churchill) for life, and decrees that all future appointments to that office shall receive royal approval. Recorders are to be barristers of at least five years' standing, and are to take the oaths appointed by the Corporation Act and the oaths of office before the Mayor and at least one Alderman.*

*There are to be twelve Aldermen, who are also to be Justices of the Peace, and amongst whom the Recorder is to be the first Alderman. The King appoints the following as Aldermen for life: Sir Robert Cann, John Lawford, Sir Robert Yeamans, John Hickes, William Crabb, Sir Richard Crumpe, Joseph Creswicke, Sir Richard Hart, Thomas Eston, Sir William Clutterbuck, and William Hayman. They and their successors are to take their oaths of office before the Mayor and Recorder, and in the event of a vacancy the Mayor is to summon all the other Aldermen who will by a majority vote (including the Mayor) elect a successor from among the Common Councilmen.*

*If any Mayor, Alderman, Sheriff, or Common Councilman shall refuse office or wilfully absent himself from swearing-in, then the Council, by a majority vote (including the Mayor) shall impose a fine not exceeding £500, and imprison the offender until it is paid, unless he shall swear before the Mayor and two Aldermen that his total property amounts to less than £2,000.*

*The Mayor and Aldermen are to be Justices of the Peace within the city, with all the usual powers and duties. Quarter Sessions are to be held by the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, of whom the Mayor or the Recorder or the senior Alderman is to be one. From Gaol-delivery (for which both the Mayor and the Recorder must be present) the fines and amercements are to go to the Crown.*

"One fit and honest man" is to act as Common-Clerk, and after taking the oaths appointed in the Corporation Act, and the oath of office, is to enjoy all established powers and duties. The King nominates to the office John Romsey, Esquire, for life. His successors are to be barristers of at least three years' standing, and are to be elected by a majority vote of the Council (including the Mayor), royal approval for their choice being necessary before the oaths are administered by the Mayor. No Common-Clerk is to be an Alderman or Sheriff during his term of office.

The King appoints John Robins as Steward of the Sheriffs' Court for life, with similar provisions for the qualification, election, royal approval and swearing-in of his successors.

He also appoints as Coroners George Lynell and Rowland Searchfield who are to take the oath of allegiance, the oaths appointed in the Corporation Act, and the oath of office. Their successors are to be chosen by a majority vote of the Council, subject to confirmation from the Crown.

Moreover the Mayor, Sheriffs, Common Councilmen, Aldermen, Common-Clerk, Steward and Coroners now in office are to take the oath of allegiance, the oaths appointed in the Corporation Act, and their oaths of office before Lord Guildford, (Lord Keeper), the Duke of Beaufort, the Marquis of Worcester, Sir Leoline Jenkins, Sir Charles Kemeys, Sir John Smith, Sir James Herbert, and John Fitzherbert, Esquire,<sup>1</sup> or before any three of them, of whom the Lord Keeper, or the Duke of Beaufort or the Marquis of Worcester or Sir Leoline Jenkins shall be one. The existing Recorder is directed to take the oaths of Recorder, Alderman, Justice of the Peace, and that of allegiance before the same three commissioners or any one of them.

The King reserves the power of removing any officer of the corporation by order of the Privy Council.

Furthermore, His Majesty makes a series of grants of markets and fairs. For corn and grain, there are to be three markets: one in Wine Street for grain brought by land, and the other two at the Quay and at the Back for grain brought by water. It is provided that the two latter markets shall be governed by the Common Council. There are to be three fairs for the sale of wool, woollen cloth and

<sup>1</sup> For the four first named, see D.N.B. Jenkins was a Secretary of State. The other four were gentry belonging to Beaufort's connection. Kemeys and Herbert were Monmouthshire men (G.E.C., *Complete Baronetage*, ii. 172; W. A. Shaw, *The Knights of England*, ii. 255); Smith was of Long Ashton, Som., and Fitzherbert of Gloucestershire (G.E.C., *op. cit.*, iii. 197; C.S.P.D., October 1683–April 1684, p. 155).

woollen goods held every year in King Street on 18-19 April, 18-19 June and on the first Thursday after Michaelmas (always provided that Monday is to be substituted whenever the opening date falls on a Sunday). Five horse-fairs are to be established:—one in Temple Street during the feast of St. Paul beginning on 25 January, a second on Redcliffe Hill on 25-26 March, a third in Broadmead on 25-26 May, a fourth in Temple Street on 25-27 September, and a fifth on Redcliffe Hill on 25-27 November (always provided that Monday is to be substituted whenever the opening date falls on a Sunday). None of these markets or fairs is to be to the prejudice of neighbouring markets and fairs.

Lastly all the rights and privileges of the corporation established in the past and not altered by these Letters Patent are hereby confirmed, despite non-usage or ill-usage.

The text is taken from the enrolment, P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 36 Charles II, pt. 4, no. 5, (C.66/3244), since the original is missing from the City Archives.

Exemplification: C.T. 01247; 7 July 1793; 8 membranes, in leather case.<sup>1</sup>

Printed copy and translation: Seyer, Charters, 244-93.

*Translations:*

- (1) Charters of Charles II, C.T. 04381, n.p.<sup>2</sup>
- (2) The Old Charter of Y<sup>e</sup> City of Bristol . . . C.T. 09231(1), n.p.
- (3) The Old Charter of Y<sup>e</sup> City of Bristol . . . C.T. 04391, pp. 91-113.
- (4) [printed] F. Farley, Bristol, The City Charters . . . (1736), 205-48.

M.C.R. 1160; Latimer, Calendar, 160-1.

Rex omnibus ad quos etc. salutem Sciatis quod nos melioracionem Civitatis <2> nostre Bristollie & Comitatus eiusdem Civitatis gratiose affectantes & volentes <3> quod de cetero

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *supra* p. 61.

<sup>2</sup> This volume contains translations of the charters of 1664 and 1684, with copies of the surrender of 1683, of the petition of 1683, and of the certificate of the royal commissioners of 1684, (cf. *supra* p. 50 and *infra*, p. 203). In September 1685 the Council ordered that a translation of the new charter be made, and in January 1688 paid Joseph Mason £6 for it (C.C.P. 1670-87, fo. 220 b; A.B. lvi. 52).

imperpetuum in eadem Civitate & Comitatu eiusdem continue <4> habeatur vnus certus & indubitatus modus pro custodia pacis & bono regimine <5> & gubernacione populi ibidem Et quod Civitas predicta de cetero imperpetuum sit et <6> permaneat Civitas pacis & quietis ad premium bonorum & terrorem malorum Et <7> quod pax nostra ceteraque facta Iusticie ibidem absque vltiore dilacione servantur <8> Sperantesque quod si Cives eiusdem Civitatis & successores sui ampliore ex <9> Concessione nostra frui & gaudere poterint libertatibus proficuis & privilegiis tunc ad <10> servicium nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris impendendum & exhibendum specialius <11> fortiusque se sentient obligatos de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia & mero <12> motu nostris ac ad humilem petitionem nuper Majoris Burgensium & Comunitatis Civitatis <13> predictae Voluimus constituimus declaravimus ordinavimus<sup>1</sup> & Concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis <14> heredibus & successoribus nostris volumus constituimus declaramus ordinamus & Concedimus <15> quod predicta Civitas Bristollie de cetero sit & permaneat imperpetuum Civitas incorporata <16> & Comitatus de se talibus & in tam amplis & largis finibus Circuitibus & precinctis terminati <17> & limitati prout eadem Civitas & Comitatus ad aliquod tempus infra spacium viginti <18> annorum jam vltimo elapsorum terminati & limitati fuerunt Et quod Cives & Inhabitantes <19> dicte Civitatis & successores sui de cetero imperpetuum sint & erunt vnum corpus <20> corporatum & politicum in re facto & nomine per nomen Maioris Burgensium & Comunitatis <21> Civitatis Bristollie Ac eos per nomen Maioris Burgensium & Comunitatis Civitatis Bristollie <22> predictae vnum Corpus Corporatum & politicum in re facto & nomine realiter & ad plenum pro <23> nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris erigimus creamus facimus Ordinamus <24> constituimus & declaramus per presentes Et quod ipsi per nomen Maioris Burgensium et <25> Comunitatis Civitatis Bristollie predictae sint & erint perpetuis futuris temporibus <26> persone habiles & in lege capaces ad habendum perquirendum recipiendum & possidendum <27> terras tenementa libertates privilegia Iurisdicciones franchises & hereditamenta <28> cuiuscunque sint generis sive speciei<sup>2</sup> fuerint sibi & successoribus suis in feodo <29> ac in perpetuitate Aceciam bona Credita & Catalla & quascunque alias res <30> cuiuscunque nature sive speciei fuerint Necnon ad dandum concedendum <31> dimittendum & assignandum maneria

<sup>1</sup> *ordinavimus* interlineated over caret.

<sup>2</sup> The usual phrase is *generis nature sive speciei*.

terras tenementa & hereditamenta bona debita <32> Credita & Catalla ac omnia alia facta & res faciendas & exequendas per predictum nomen <33> Maioris Burgensium & Comunitatis Civitatis Bristollie predictae Et quod per idem nomen <34> placitare & implacitari respondere & responderi defendere & defendi valeant <35> & possint in quibuscunque Curiis placeis<sup>1</sup> & locis ac coram quibuscunque Iudicibus <36> & Iusticiariis ac aliis personis & Officiariis nostris heredum & successorum nostrorum in omnibus <37> & omnimodis accionibus sectis querelis placitis causis materiis & demandis <38> quibuscunque cuiuscunque<sup>2</sup> sint generis nature sive speciei eisdem modo & forma prout alii <39> ligei nostri huius Regni nostri Anglie persone habiles & in lege capaces placitare et <40> implacitari respondere & responderi defendere & defendi valeant & possint <41> Et quod Maior Burgenses & Comunitas Civitatis predictae & successores sui habeant <42> imperpetuum Commune Sigillum pro causis & negotijs suis quibuscunque exequendis & agendis <43> servitutum Ac quod bene liceat & licebit eisdem Maiori Burgensibus & Comunitati <44> Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis sigillum illud ad libitum suum de tempore in <45> tempus frangere mutare necnon de novo facere de tempore in tempus prout <46> eis melius fieri & fore videbitur Et Vltcrius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis <47> heredibus & successoribus nostris Ordinamus quod de cetero imperpetuum sit & erit infra <48> Civitatem predictam vnus Maior de Civibus Civitatis predictae in forma inferius <49> specificata & expressa Et pro meliori execucione voluntatis nostre in hac parte <50> Assignavimus nominavimus constituimus & fecimus Ac per presentes pro nobis <51> heredibus & successoribus nostris Assignamus nominamus constituimus & facimus <52> Dilectum nobis Willelmum Clutterbuck militem fore & esse primum & modernum Maiorem Civitatis <53> predictae volentes quod idem Willelmus Clutterbuck in Officio Maioris eiusdem Civitatis <54> erit & continuabit vsque ad decimum quintum diem Septembris proxime futurum et <55> abinde quousque vnus alius ad Officium illud prefectus & iuratus fuerit iuxta <56> ordinationes & provisiones in hijs literis Patentibus inferius expressas & declaratas <57> si idem Willelmus Clutterbuck tam diu vixerit Et quod tam prefatus Willelmus <58> Clutterbuck quam quilibet succedens Maior eiusdem Civitatis habeat & habebit <59> talem & eandem potestatem & auctoritatem perquisita & proficua in omnibus & per omnia

<sup>1</sup> ? *placitis*.

<sup>2</sup> *cuiuscunque* omitted by Seyer p. 246.



ad idem <60> Officium in aliquo modo quocunque spectantia & pertinentia qualia aliquis precedens Maior <61> eiusdem Civitatis antehac habuit sive gavisus fuit vel gaudere debuit Ipso <62> prefato Willelmo Clutterbuck & quolibet alio succedenti Maiore eiusdem Civitatis <63> tempore admissionis sue respective in Officium Maioralitatis eiusdem Civitatis <64> prestante sacramentum corporale ligeancie (Anglice vocatum the Oath of Allegiance) <65> & sacramenta per quendam Actum Parliamenti Intitulatum (An Act for regulating of <66> Corporacions) appunctuata necnon omnia alia Iuramenta vsualiter administrata <67> Maiori eiusdem Civitatis infra spatium viginti annorum iam vltimo elapsorum tempore <68> sue admissionis in Officium Maioralitatis eiusdem Civitatis Quequidem sacramenta et <69> Iuramenta omnibus Maioribus prefatum Willelmum Clutterbuck succedentibus per vltimum <70> & immediate precedentem Maiorem eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentem si adtunc <71> superstes & Commorans erit infra eandem Civitatem aut in eius absentia per <72> Recordatorem eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentem & in eius absentia per senioresem <73> Aldermannorum qui adtunc infra eandem Civitatem inhabitantem & residentem erit administrari <74> volumus palam & publice ac cum solemnitatibus vsualiter in hijs casibus consuetis in <75> Guihalda eiusdem Civitatis si modo convenienter fieri poterit & si non tunc in <76> tali alio convenienti loco infra libertates eiusdem Civitatis quali huiusmodi persone qui per presentes <77> de iure huiusmodi sacramenta administrare designate & appunctuate melius fore <78> videbitur Quibusquidem personis sic qualificate vt prefertur huiusmodi sacramenta & <79> Iuramenta omnibus succedentibus Maioribus respective dandi & administrandi plenam <80> potestatem & authoritatem damus & Concedimus per presentes Et Vltcrius volumus ac per <81> presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris ordinamus quod de cetero imperpetuum sint <82> & erint in Civitate predicta & Comitatu eiusdem Civitatis duo Vicecomites qui tanta talia <83> & eadem habeant potestates & authoritates privilegia proficua & Iurisdictiones in omnibus <84> & ad omnia prout aliqui Vicecomites dicte Civitatis antehac ad aliquod tempus <85> habuerunt sive gavisi fuerunt aut habere seu gaudere debuerunt aut potuerunt Et <86> pro meliori execucione voluntatis nostre in hac parte Assignavimus nominavimus <87> constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & Successoribus nostris assignamus <88> nominamus constituimus & facimus Dilectos nobis

Nathanielem Driver & Edmundum <89> Arundell Armigeros fore & esse primos & modernos Vicecomites Civitatis et <90> Comitatus eiusdem Civitatis<sup>1</sup> predictæ continuandos in Officio predicto vsque ad predictum decimum <91> quintum diem Septembris proxime sequentem datum presencium Et volumus quod omnes <92> succedentes Vicecomites Civitatis & Comitatus Civitatis eiusdem predictæ imposterum electi <93> sacramentum corporale (Anglice vocatum the Oath of Allegiance) & sacramenta per predictum <94> Actum Parliamenti Intitulatum (An Act for regulating of Corporacions) appunctuata <95> Necnon omnia alia Iuramenta vsualiter administrata Vicecomitibus eiusdem Civitatis <96> infra spatium viginti annorum iam vltimo elapsorum tempore eorundem admissionis <97> in Officio Vicecomitis Comitatus Civitatis Bristollie predictæ capient & prestabunt coram <98> Maiore eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existenti Cuiquidem Maiori eiusdem <99> Civitatis pro tempore existenti sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta quibuslibet aliis succedentibus <100> Vicecomitibus Civitatis predictæ de cetero imperpetuum dandi & administrandi plenam <101> potestatem & auctoritatem pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris damus & Concedimus <102> per presentes Et Vltcrius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris <103> damus & Concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictæ <104> & successoribus suis quod de cetero imperpetuum sint & erint in Civitate predicta <105> tot & tales de melioribus & discretioribus Burgensibus & Inhabitantibus Civitatis predictæ qui <106> cum Maiore & Aldermannis eiusdem Civitatis non excedant numerum quadraginta <107> & trium & cum eis erunt & vocabuntur & nominabuntur Commune Concilium eiusdem <108> Civitatis in omnibus rebus materijs causis & negotijs Civitatis predictæ libertates suburba & <109> precincta eiusdem Civitatis ac bonum regimen statum & gubernacionem eorundem tangentibus <110> seu concernentibus de tempore in tempus & ad omnia tempora assistentes & auxiliantes <111> Maiori eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existenti in omnibus causis & materijs eandem <112> Civitatem tangentibus seu concernentibus exequendi Et assignavimus nominavimus <113> constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris <114> assignamus nominamus constituimus & facimus Dilectos nobis Johannem Churchill <115> Militem Robertum Cann Militem & Baronettum Johannem Lawford Armigerum Robertum Yeomans

<sup>1</sup> et Comitatus eiusdem Civitatis omitted by Seyer, p. 250.

Militem <116> & Baronettum Johannem Hicks Armigerum Willelmum Crabb Armigerum Ricardum Crump Militem Josephum <117> Creswick Armigerum Ricardum Hart Militem Thomam Eston Armigerum Willelmum Clutterbuck Militem <118> Willelmum Hayman Armigerum Johannem Romsey Armigerum modo Communem Clericum Civitatis predicte <119> Necnon Communem Clericum Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentem Johannem Knight <120> Militem Abrahamum Sanders Johannem Combs Johannem Moore Willelmum Swimmer <121> Ricardum Lane Georgium Hart Nathanielem Driver Edmundum Arundell Willelmum <122> Merrick Georgium Morgan Egidium Merrick Johannem Sandford Jacobum <123> Twyford Walterum Gunter Robertum Dowding Georgium Morrice Antonium <124> Swimmer Johannem Yeomans Edwardum Tocknell Johannem Oliffe Robertum Yate <125> Johannem Whiteing Jacobum Pope Henricum Combs Johannem Bradway <126> Robertum Smith Johannem Hollister Mercer Scarborough Chapman & Ricardum <127> Gibbons generosos fore & esse & quod ipsi sint erint & vocabuntur Commune <128> Concilium Civitatis predicte continuandi in dicto Officio Communis Concilij Civitatis <129> predicte durantibus vitis suis naturalibus respective Volumus tamen quod quilibet <130> persona & persone de Communi Concilio Civitatis predicte de cetero eligende sive <131> constituende tempore admissionis sue respective in Officio Communis Concilio Civitatis <132> predicte prestabunt & prestabit sacramentum Corporale (Anglice vocatum the Oath of <133> Allegiance) & sacramenta per predictum Actum Parliamenti Intitulatum (An Act for regulating of <134> Corporacions) appunctuata Necnon omnia alia Iuramenta vsualiter administrata Communibus <135> Consiliarijs eiusdem Civitatis infra spatium viginti annorum iam vltimo elapsorum tempore <136> eorum admissionis in Officio Communis Conciliarij Civitatis predicte coram Maiore Civitatis predicte <137> pro tempore existenti vt in ea parte antehac vsitatum fuit in Civitate predicta Volumus etiam <138> ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris ordinamus & declaramus quod <139> quandocunque ac toties acciderit aliquem vel aliquos de Communi Concilio Civitatis <140> predicte in his presentibus mencionatos & nominatos aut imposterum nominandos & eligendos obire <141> vel ab Officio predicto Communis Conciliarij amoveri quod tunc ac quoties Commune Concilium <142> Civitatis predicte apud assemblacionem Communis Concilij proxime sequentem post huiusmodi <143>

mortem vel amocionem vel maior pars eorundem sic assemblata vnum vel plurimum de <144> melioribus discretioribus Burgensibus & Inhabitantibus Civitatis predicte in locum ipsius vel in loca <145> ipsorum sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel amotorum ad Officium de Commune Concilio Civitatis <146> predicte eligere & preficere possint & valeant possit & valeat & per perpetuam successionem <147> continuare numerum quadraginta duorum preter Maiorem Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentem <148> Et Vltcrius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus prefatis <149> Maiori Burgensibus & Comunitati Civitatis predicte & successoribus suis quod Commune Concilium <150> Civitatis predicte pro tempore existens vel maior pars eorum (quorum Maiorem pro tempore <151> existentem vnum esse volumus) habeant & habebunt plenam potestatem & authoritatem <152> condendi constituendi ordinandi faciendi & stabiliendi de tempore in tempus <153> leges statuta Constituciones Decreta & ordinaciones racionabiliter in scriptis quecunque que <154> eis aut maiori parti eorum ad hoc congregatis & assemblatis (quorum Maiorem pro tempore <155> existentem vnum esse volumus) bona salubria vtilia necessaria & honesta iuxta eorum <156> sanas discretionones fore videbuntur pro bono regimine & gubernacione Civitatis predicte <157> suburba precinctus & libertates eiusdem ac omnium & singulorum Officiariorum Ministrorum Artificium <158> Inhabitantium & Residentium quorumcunque infra Civitatem predictam suburba libertates & precinctus eiusdem <159> pro tempore existentium ac pro declaracione quo modo & ordine predictum Commune Concilium <160> Civitatis predicte ac omnes & singuli Artifices Inhabitantes & Residentes infra <161> Civitatem libertates suburba & precinctus eiusdem in Officijs functionibus Misterijs Artificijs <162> & negotijs suis infra Civitatem predictam suburba libertates & precinctus eiusdem sese habebunt <163> gerent & vtentur pro vltteriori bono publico Communi vtilitate & bono regimine <164> dicte Civitatis suburborum libertatum & precinctum eiusdem ac victualacione eorundem<sup>1</sup> ac res et <165> causas alias quasunque Civitatem predictam suburba libertates & precinctus eiusdem tangentes seu <166> quoquo modo concernentes Quodque Commune Concilium Civitatis predicte vel maior pars <167> eorum (quorum Maiorem pro tempore existentem vnum esse volumus) quotiescunque huiusmodi leges <168> Instituciones Iura Ordinaciones seu Constituciones condiderint fecerint ordinauerint

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *earundem*.

<169> vel stabiliverint in forma predicta huiusmodi & tales penas  
 puniciones & penalitates per <170> Imprisonamentum Corporis  
 vel per fines & Amerciamenta vel per eorum vtrumque in & super  
 <171> omnes delinquentes contra huiusmodi Leges Ordinaciones  
 & Constituciones seu eorum aliquod <172> vel aliqua qualia &  
 que predicto Communi Concilio Civitatis predictae pro tempore  
 existenti vel <173> maiori<sup>1</sup> parti eorum (quorum Maiorem Civitatis  
 predictae pro tempore existentem vnum esse volumus) <174>  
 necessaria opportuna & requisita pro observacione earundem legum  
 ordinacionum & Constitucionum <175> fore videbuntur facere  
 ordinare imponere limitare & providere Ac eadem fines & <176>  
 Amerciamenta per districciones bonorum & Catallorum acciones  
 debiti vel aliter levare recuperare <177> & habere possint &  
 valeant ad vsum prefatorum Maioris Burgensium & Communitatis  
 Civitatis <178> predictae & successorum suorum imperpetuum  
 absque impedimento nostri heredum vel successorum <179>  
 nostrorum aut alicuius vel aliquorum Officiariorum vel Ministrorum  
 nostrorum heredum vel <180> successorum nostrorum & absque  
 Compoto nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris inde <181>  
 reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Que omnia & singula Leges Iura  
 Ordinaciones <182> & Constituciones sic vt prefertur facienda  
 observari volumus sub penibus in eisdem <183> contentis Ita  
 tamen quod leges ordinaciones Iura Constituciones Institutiones  
 <184> Imprisonamenta fines & Amerciamenta sint rationabilia  
 & non sint repugnantia nec <185> contraria legibus Statutis  
 Consuetudinibus sive Iuribus Regni nostri Anglie Aceciam volumus  
 <186> quod Commune Concilium Civitatis predictae de cetero  
 imperpetuum habeant & habebunt in <187> omnibus causis  
 materijs & <sup>2</sup> rebus quibuscunque tantam & huiusmodi potestatem  
 authoritatem et <188> fidem quantam Commune Concilium  
 Civitatis predictae aliquo tempore antehac habuit <189> vel gavisus  
 fuit Proviso semper & volumus quod Leges Statuta Constituciones  
 <190> vel Ordinaciones facienda vt prefertur per Commune  
 Concilium Civitatis non <191> continuabunt aut valida erunt  
 vltra spatium vnus anni proxime post confeccionem <192>  
 earundem nisi Cancellarius noster aut Custos magni Sigilli nostri  
 Anglie pro <193> tempore existens aut Capitales Iusticiarii  
 vtriusque Banci apud Westmonasterium <194> aut aliqui duo  
 eorundem approbabunt huiusmodi Leges Statuta Ordinaciones  
 et <195> Constituciones facienda per Commune Concilium Civitatis

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *pro maiori*.

<sup>2</sup> & interlineated over caret.

predicte pro tempore existens <196> vt prefertur legalia & in iure  
 valida esse tali approbacione sua sub manibus <197> & sigillis  
 suis in scriptis significanda Ac insuper volumus ac per presentes  
 pro nobis <198> heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus  
 Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati <199> Civitatis predicte pro  
 tempore existentibus quod Maior & Commune Concilium Civitatis  
 <200> predicte pro tempore existentes de cetero imperpetuum in  
 & super decimum quintum diem <201> Septembris proxime post  
 datum presencium Necnon quolibet decimo quinto die Septembris  
 <202> annuatim assemblare valeant in Capella Sancti Georgij in  
 le Guihald Civitatis <203> predicte (si fieri possit) aut in aliquo  
 alio convenienti loco infra Civitatem predictam <204> per  
 direccionem Maioris Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentis &  
 ibidem liceat & licebit <205> Communi Concilio Civitatis predicte  
 pro tempore existenti vel maiori parti eorum <206> (quorum  
 Maiorem pro tempore existentem vnum esse volumus) eligere &  
 nominare <207> per Maioralitatem vocum vnum ex Communi  
 Concilio Civitatis predicte pro tempore <208> existenti fore & esse  
 Maior Civitatis predicte pro vno anno proxime sequenti Aceciam  
 <209> ibidem & eodem die eligere & nominare duos Burgenses  
 Civitatis predicte de Communi <210> Concilio eiusdem Civitatis  
 vel non fore & esse Vicecomites eiusdem Civitatis pro <211> vno  
 anno proxime sequenti atque eligere & nominare omnes alios  
 Officiarios & Ministros <212> antehac vsualiter electos & nominatos  
 in & super decimum quintum diem Septembris <213> predictum  
 annuatim per Commune Concilium Civitatis predicte Et volumus  
 ac per presentes <214> pro nobis heredibus & successoribus  
 nostris Concedimus & declaramus quod tales <215> elecciones vt  
 prefertur facte vel faciende per Commune Concilium Civitatis  
 predicte aliquo tempore <216> de cetero imperpetuum sint &  
 erint tam vegetes & efficaces quam aliqua electio vel elecciones  
 <217> antehac per Commune Concilium Civitatis predicte facte  
 Et Vltcrius volumus ac per presentes <218> pro nobis heredibus  
 & successoribus nostris precipimus quod quelibet persona de  
 cetero <219> imperpetuum electa ad Officium Maioris Civitatis  
 predicte vt prefertur antequam admissionem suam <220> ad  
 Officium Maioris Civitatis predicte in & super Festum Sancti  
 Michaelis Archiangeli proxime sequentem <221> eleccionem suam  
 ad Officium Maioris sacramentum Corporale vocatum the Oath  
 of <222> Allegiance Necnon omnia alia sacramenta per predictum  
 Actum Parliamenti constituta vsualiter <223> administrata  
 Maioribus Civitatis predicte vt prefertur in talibus loco & modo

& tempore <224> ac coram talibus personis publice prestabit prout in presentibus in ea parte superius appunctuatum <225> existit Necnon volumus quod Vicecomites sic electi vel eligendi (immediate <226> postquam sacramenta & Iuramenta per Maiorem prestiterint) iurentur in talibus loco & modo <227> vt superius in ea parte appunctuatum sive declaratum existit coram Maiore Civitatis <228> predictæ Cuiquidem Maiori Civitatis predictæ plenam potestatem & auctoritatem dandi <229> & administrandi sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta prefatis Vicecomitibus Civitatis predictæ <230> & eorum alteri damus & Concedimus per presentes absque aliquo alio warranto vel <231> Commissione a nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris in ea parte procurando aut <232> obtinendo Volumus etiam ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & succesoribus nostris Concedimus <233> Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictæ & successoribus suis quod si <234> contigerit predictum Willelmum Clutterbuck Militem superius per presentes nominatum fore <235> Maior Civitatis predictæ obire vel ab Officio illo amoveri durante tempore <236> Maioralitatis sue vel si contigerit aliquam eleccionem Maioris Civitatis predictæ <237> imposterum frustrari per incapacitatem vel renunciacionem illius ad Officium Maioris <238> Civitatis predictæ electi quod tunc ac toties casus sic acciderit liceat & licebit <239> Recordatori (si presens) vel in eius absentia seniori Aldermanno Civitatis predictæ <240> tunc in ea residenti & exinde capaci protinus vocare Commune Concilium et <241> procedere ad eleccionem alterie persone in Officium Maioris Civitatis predictæ in talibus loco <242> & modo prout superius in presentibus plenius expressum & declaratum est Necnon iuretur <243> in talibus loco & modo & per talibus personis vt predictum est et sic toties quoties casus <244> sic acciderit Et ulterius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <245> nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictæ & successoribus <246> suis quod si ac quoties contigerit Vicecomitem vel Vicecomites eiusdem <247> Civitatis pro tempore existentes obire vel amoveri ab Officio Vicecomitis vel <248> Vicecomitum Civitatis predictæ vel Officia sua sive Officium alterius eorum vilo modo <249> vacari quod tunc ac toties<sup>1</sup> liceat & licebit Maiori Civitatis predictæ pro <250> tempore existenti protinus vocare Commune Concilium [&] procedere ad eleccionem vnum <251> vel plurimum in locum vel loca ipsius vel ipsorum sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel <252> amotorum vt prefertur

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *quoties*.

Quiquidem Vicecomes vel Vicecomites sic electus iuretur <253> vel iurentur in talibus loco & modo & per huiusmodi personas vt prius in ea parte appunctuatum <254> sive declaratum fuit Proviso semper quod quelibet persona sic electa ad Officium <255> Maioris Vicecomitis sive Vicecomitum Civitatis predicte respective in aliqua <256> vacantia vt prefertur continuabit in tali Officio pro tali tempore & non diutius quali <257> persona sic mortuus vel amotus si vixerit vel non amotus fuit continuare debet nisi <258> de novo adinde debito modo electus erit Et Vltorius volumus ac per presentes pro <259> nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis <260> predicte & successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant & <261> habebunt infra Civitatem predictam vnum probum & discretum virum in legibus Anglie peritum <262> & Barrasterium per spatium quinque annorum ad minimum in forma inferius in hijs presentibus <263> mencionata eligendi qui erit & vocabitur Recordator Civitatis predicte Et pro <264> meliori execucione voluntatis nostre in hac parte Assignavimus nominavimus <265> constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris <266> assignamus nominamus constituimus & facimus predictum Johannem Churchill <267> Militem fore & esse primum Recordatorem Civitatis predicte continuandum in dictum Officium <268> Recordatoris Civitatis predicte durante vita sua naturali Et quod ipse et <269> quilibet alius Recordator Civitatis predicte imposterum eligendus habeat teneat & <270> gaudeat habeant teneant & gaudeant omnia & huiusmodi potestates & authoritates <271> vadia proficua & Commoditates que Recordatores Civitatis predicte antehac tempora <272> habuerunt tenuerunt & gavisi fuerunt vel habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt Proviso <273> semper & volumus quod predictus Johannes Churchill Miles & omnes alii Recordatores <274> Civitatis predicte imposterum eligendi antequam admissionem suam vel admissiones <275> suas capiet & capient sacramenta predicta per predictum Actum Parliamentum directa Ac-<276>etiam sacramenta & Iuramenta per spatium viginti annorum iam vltimo elapsorum vsualiter <277> administrata & prestita per Recordatores eiusdem Civitatis que sacramenta et <278> Iuramenta predicta post mortem vel amocionem predicti Johannis Churchill Militis administrata <279> erunt cuilibet succedenti Recordatori per Maiorem Civitatis predicte pro tempore <280> existentem in presentia vnus Aldermannorum Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentium ad minimum <281> Cuiquidem



Maiori plenam potestatem damus ad sacramenta predicta prestanda <282> Et insuper volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus <283> Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis quod in <284> casu mortis vel amocionis predicti Johannis Churchill Militis vel alicuius <285> alii Recordatoris imposterum eligendi ab Officio Recordatoris Civitatis predictae <286> vel in casu alterius vacantie dicti Officij Recordatoris quod tunc & in quolibet <287> tali casu liceat & licebit Maiori & Comuni Concilio Civitatis predictae pro <288> tempore existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maior pro tempore existens <289> vnum esse volumus) & eisdem vel maiori parti eorum vt prefertur potestatem & <290> auctoritatem damus & Concedimus per presentes eligere & nominare vnum <291> probum & discretum virum in legibus Anglie eruditum & per spatium quinque annorum <292> Barrasterium succedere huiusmodi Recordatorem sic mortuum vel amotum vt prefertur <293> Proviso semper & volumus quod ille sic electus & nominatus ad Officium <294> Recordatoris Civitatis predictae non admittetur sacramenta & Iuramenta <295> predicta prestare vel ad execucionem Officij Recordatoris Civitatis predictae admissus <296> erit usque nos heredes vel successores nostri sub manu regali nostri heredum <297> vel successorum nostrorum significabimus vel significabunt approbacionem nostram <298> heredum vel successorum nostrorum huiusmodi personam sic ad Officium Recordatoris <299> Civitatis predictae electam vt prefertur Volumus etiam ac per presentes pro nobis <300> heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Comunitati <301> Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis quod de cetero imperpetuum sint & erunt <302> duodecim Aldermanni in Civitate predicta in forma inferius in hijs presentibus <303> mencionata eligendi & constituendi qui sint & erunt Conservatores et <304> Iusticiarii ad pacem nostram heredum & successorum nostrorum infra Civitatem predictam <305> suburba libertates & precinctus eiusdem Et quod ipsi & Aldermanni eiusdem <306> Civitatis pro tempore existentes habeant teneant & gaudeant & eorum quilibet <307> respective habeat teneat & gaudeat tantas tales easdem<sup>1</sup> & huiusmodi potestates <308> & auctoritates quas Aldermanni eiusdem Civitatis aliquo tempore ante <309> datum presentium habuerunt tenuerunt vel gavisi fuerunt aut habere tenere vel <310> gaudere debuerunt aut potuerunt Et pro meliori execucione voluntatis nostre in <311> hac parte Assignavimus

<sup>1</sup> *Eadem* in MS.

nominavimus constituimus & fecimus Ac per presentes pro nobis <312> heredibus & successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus & facimus predictum <313> Johannem Churchill Militem in hijs presentibus superius mencionatum fore & esse Recordatorem <314> Civitatis predicte fore & esse primum Aldermannum Civitatis predicte Et volumus quod de <315> cetero imperpetuum quilibet Recordator Civitatis predicte pro tempore existens sit & erit <316> primus & senior Aldermannus Civitatis predicte Necnon assignavimus nominavimus <317> ordinavimus constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <318> nostris assignamus nominamus ordinavimus constituimus & facimus predictos Robertum <319> Cann Militem & Baronettum Johannem Lawford Robertum Yeomans Militem & Baronettum Johannem <320> Hicks Willelmum Crabb Ricardum Crump Militem Josephum Creswick Ricardum Hart Militem <321> Thomam Eston Willelmum Clutterbuck Militem & Willelmum Hayman fore & esse alteros <322> Aldermannos Civitatis predicte continuandos in dictum Officium Aldermanni Civitatis predicte durantibus <323> vitis suis naturalibus respectivis sacramenta predicta & Iuramenta pro debita executione <324> Officij Aldermanni Civitatis predicte prius respective prestita Volumus etiam ac per <325> presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus <326> & Communitati Civitatis predicte & successoribus suis quod si ac toties acciderit aliquem <327> vel aliquos de Aldermannis Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentibus imposterum obire vel <328> ab Officio Aldermanni Civitatis predicte amoveri liceat & licebit Maiori Civitatis predicte <329> pro tempore existens summonire omnes<sup>1</sup> Aldermannos Civitatis predicte pro tempore <330> existentes ad assemblandos in Guihalda infra Civitatem predictam & ibidem Maior et <331> Aldermanni eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes vel maior pars eorum (quorum <332> Maiorem pro tempore existentem vnum esse volumus) eligant & nominabunt & eligere <333> & nominare possint & valeant possit & valeat vnum vel plurimum ex Communibus Consiliarij <334> Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentibus succedere in locum sive loca Aldermanni vel <335> Aldermannorum Civitatis predicte sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel amotorum vt prefertur Et <336> volumus quod quelibet persona sic ad Officium Aldermanni eiusdem Civitatis electa <337> vel eligenda capiet & prestabit sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta coram Maiore & Recordatore <338> eiusdem

<sup>1</sup> Seyer adds *alios* after omnes (p. 265).

Civitatis pro tempore existentibus Aceciam volumus quod omnes Aldermanni <339> Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentes (Recordatore excepto) residentes erunt infra <340> Civitatem predictam suburba libertates & precinctus eiusdem Et Insuper volumus ac per presentes <341> pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati <342> Civitatis predicte & successoribus suis quod si aliqua persona vel alique persone in his <343> presentibus nominate vel que imposterum debito modo electa erit vel electe erunt <344> ad separalia Officia Maioris Aldermanni Vicecomitis vel Communis Conciliarij dicte <345> Civitatis contigerit vel contigerint obire vel renunciare exercere Officium vel <346> Officia & fidem ad quod vel que per presentes nominate & appunctuate sunt vel <347> que imposterum debito modo respective electe fuerint vel voluntarie abesse <348> tempore vel temporibus quo vel quibus iurari debent vel debet modo & forma <349> predictis ad & in respectiva Officia & fidem sua predicta quod tunc & in quolibet tali <350> casu liceat & licebit Maiori & Communi Concilio Civitatis predicte pro tempore <351> existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentem vnum <352> esse volumus) Et eisdem vel maiori parti eorum vt prefertur potestatem & auctoritatem <353> damus & Concedimus per presentes imponere rationabiliter finem non excedentem in toto <354> summam quingentarum librarum legalis monete Anglie in quamlibet personam Officium predictum <355> respective sic recusantem non acceptantem vel voluntarie sese absentem <356> vt prefertur necnon eam ad Prisonam committere vsque solucionem inde secundum antiquam <357> consuetudinem Civitatis predicte atque eligere & nominare vnam vel plurimam personam secundum <358> direcciones & regulaciones in his presentibus mencionatas & expressas supplere et <359> succedere in locum & Officium vel in loca vel Officia ipsius vel ipsorum sic mortui <360> recusantis non acceptantis vel voluntarie se absentis mortuorum recusantium <361> non acceptantium vel voluntarie se absentium vt prefertur Proviso semper & <362> volumus quod si aliqua persona sic electa vel eligenda ad aliquod Officiorum <363> predictorum voluntarie coram Maiore & duobus Aldermannorum Civitatis predicte pro <364> tempore existentibus iurabit se non habere vel possidere bona fide opes reales & <365> personales ad valorem duorum mille librarum legalis monete Anglie persona sic electa <366> & iurata vt <sup>1</sup> prefertur exonerata & exempta sit & erit omnino a fine penalitate

<sup>1</sup> & iurata vt written over an erasure.

& <367> Imprisonamento predictis Et vltcrius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & <368> successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictæ & <369> successoribus suis quod Maior & Aldermanni eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes <370> de tempore in tempus futuris temporibus sint & erunt Iusticiarij nostri heredum & <371> successorum nostrorum<sup>1</sup> infra Civitatem & Comitatum predictum ad inquirendum per sacramenta proborum <372> & legalium hominum de Communitate & Civitate Bristollie predictæ tam infra libertates quam <373> extra per quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit de omnibus prodicionibus murdris <374> raptibus mulierum & alijs Felonijs quibuscunque de quibuscunque transgressionibus Riotis Routis <375> Conventiculis illicitis Imbraciarijs manutencijs ambidextris transgressionibus Reqratorijs <376> & Forestallarijs infra Comitatum Civitatem precinctus & libertates Bristollie predictæ per <377> quoscunque & qualitercunque factis sive perpetratis & exnunc fieri sive <378> perpetrari contingentibus Acceiam de hijs qui in Insidijs ad gentem nostram <379> mahemiandum vel interficiendam iacuerint seu exnunc iacere presumpserint Et etiam <380> de hijs qui Capicijs & alijs liberatis<sup>2</sup> de vnica secta per Confederacionem et pro <381> manutencijs contra defensionem & formam aliquorum<sup>3</sup> Ordinacionum sive Statutorum <382> inde antehæc tempora factorum in Comitatu Civitate & libertatibus Bristollie predictæ vsi <383> fuerunt & alijs huiusmodi capicijs & liberatis imposterum vtendis necnon de omnibus <384> & singulis hijs qui infra Comitatum Civitatem precinctus & libertates Bristollie predictæ contra <385> formam Ordinacionum & Statutorum predictorum seu eorum alicuius in aliquo <386> delinquerent aut exnunc aliquid in contrarium inde attemptare presumpserint <387> Necnon ad inquirendum de quibusdam Vicecomitibus Ballivis Constabularijs <388> ac Custodibus Gaole qui infra Comitatum Civitatem precinctus & libertates Bristollie predictæ <389> in execucione Officiorum suorum erga Artifices Servitores Laboratores Vitellarios hostellarios <390> Mendicantes & Vagabundos ac alios predictos quoscunque iuxta formam Ordinacionum & <391> Statutorum predictorum indebite se habuerunt & exnunc indebite se habere presumpserunt <392> aut tepidi remissi vel negligentes fuerunt & exnunc tepidos remissos vel <393> negligentes

<sup>1</sup> The definition of the Justices' functions and the allocation of judicial revenue which here follow (to line 445), are taken from the charters of 1581 (*supra* p. 130 *et seq.*) and 1499 (*vol. ii*, p. 172 (line 32), p. 174 (line 50)).

<sup>2</sup> Seyer, here and elsewhere, has *libertatibus* (pp. 268, 269).

<sup>3</sup> *aliquorum* in MS.

fore contigerit Et de omnibus & singulis Articulis & circumstancijs <394> premissa omnia & singula qualitercunque concernentibus ac alijs contra formam Ordinacionum <395> & Statutorum predictorum per quoscunque<sup>1</sup> & qualitercunque factis sive perpetratis & que exnunc <396> ibidem fieri vel attemptari contigerit plenius veritatem Necnon ad omnia <397> Indictamenta quecunque tam coram eisdem Iusticiarijs nostris heredum & successorum <398> nostrorum seu eorum aliquibus aut alijs nuper Custodibus pacis & Iusticiarijs nostris [aut] nuper <399> Regum Edwardi quarti Edwardi quinti aut Ricardi nuper Regis Anglie tertij <400> ad huiusmodi transgressionem & malefacta in Comitatu Civitate libertatibus & precintibus <401> Bristollie predictis audienda & terminanda assignatis virtute diversarum litterarum Patentium [nostrarum]<sup>2</sup> aut <402> dictorum dominorum Edwardi Edwardi & Ricardi seu eorum alicuius eis ac alijs quibuscunque personis <403> in Comitatu Civitate libertatibus & precintibus eiusdem facta [capta]<sup>3</sup> & nondum terminata quam <404> coram predictis Maiore Recordatore & Aldermannis vndecim decem novem octo <405> septem sex quinque quatuor & tribus eorum (quorum Maiorem vel Recordatorem <406> eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentem vnum esse volumus) Iusticiarijs nostris heredum <407> & successorum nostrorum capta vel capienda inspicienda ac ad processus inde ac processus <408> versus omnes alios quos coram eisdem Iusticiarijs nostris heredum & successorum nostrorum <409> de premissis vel aliquo premissorum de cetero indictari contigerit quousque <410> capiantur reddantur vel vtlagantur facienda & continuanda Necnon omnia <411> & singula que contra formam ordinacionum & statutorum predictorum seu in enervacionem <412> eorundem seu eorum alicuius infra Comitatum Civitatem libertates & procinctus Bristollie predictae <413> facta perpetrata sive attemptata fuerint Et que ibidem imposterum fieri perpetrari <414> seu attemptari contigerit tam ad sectam nostram quam aliorum quorumcunque coram <415> eisdem Iusticiarijs pro nobis heredibus aut successoribus nostris aut pro seipsis conqueri <416> vel prosequi volencium audienda ac secundum Legem & Consuetudinem Regni nostri Anglie <417> ac juxta formam ordinacionum & statutorum predictorum terminanda in tam amplis <418> modo & forma prout aliqui alij Iusticiarij pacis nostre heredum & successorum nostrorum <419> alibi in aliquo

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *quecunque* and omits *per*, but see *vol. ii*, p. 173.

<sup>2</sup> *nostrarum* is omitted from the MS., but see *vol. ii*, p. 173.

<sup>3</sup> *capta* is omitted from the MS., but see *vol. ii*, p. 173.

alio Comitatu Regni nostri Anglie audire & terminare possint seu <420> poterint Necnon transgressiones & Forstallaria predicta ac omnia alia superius ad <421> terminanda non declarata ad sectam nostram tantum & omnia alia que virtute <422> aliquarum ordinacionum & Statutorum per Custodes pacis nostre heredum & successorum <423> nostrorum ac Iusticiarios nostros heredum & successorum nostrorum huiusmodi discuti & terminari <424> debent audienda & terminanda Et ad quoscunque contra formam ordinacionum <425> & Statutorum predictorum seu eorum alicuius delinquentes per Fines Redempciones <426> Amerciamenta ac alio modo pro delictis suis castigandos & puniendos prout ante <427> ordinacionem de punitione corporali huiusmodi delinquentium pro delictis suis <428> exhibendis factum fieri consuetum alibi infra Regnum Anglie pertinent seu pertinebunt <429> facienda aut exercenda audienda seu terminanda Et Quod Maior Burgenses <430> & Communitas Civitatis predictae pro tempore existentes & successores sui imperpetuum <431> habeant omnia & omnimoda & singula fines redempciones exitus forisfacturas & amerciamenta <432> coram prefatis Iusticiarijs & eorum quolibet de tempore in tempus perpetuis <433> futuris temporibus duraturis facienda assidenda forisfacienda & adjudicanda Et <434> quod bene licebit eisdem Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae et <435> successoribus suis de tempore in tempus quotiens<sup>1</sup> opus fuerit omnia & singula <436> huiusmodi exitus forisfacturas fines redempciones & Amerciamenta adiudicata & <437> adiudicanda sive assidenda per Vicecomites aut alios Ministros eiusdem Civitatis <438> Bristollie qui nunc sunt & qui pro tempore erunt ad opus dictorum Maioris Burgensium <439> & Communitatis Civitatis predictae & successorum suorum colligere & levare ac seipsos <440> in seisinam & possessionem de eisdem ponere possint prout<sup>2</sup> Vicecomites Officiarij <441> vel Ministri nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum in ea parte pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <442> nostris possint potuissent vel deberent ad opus nostrum heredum & successorum nostrorum <443> percipere & levare si ea predictis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis Bristollie <444> predictae & successoribus suis concessa non fuissent absque aliquo Compoto aut aliquo <445> alio nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris inde reddendo faciendo seu solvendo Et <446> Volumus quod Maior Civitatis Bristolie predictae pro tempore existens & successor <447>

<sup>1</sup> *quoties* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> MS. has *aut*; but see *vol. ii*, p. 174.

suus pro tempore existens quamdiu Maior Civitatis predictae extiterit Recordator (448) eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existens quamdiu Recordator Civitatis illius extiterit (449) ac predicti Aldermanni & successores sui quamdiu Aldermanni eiusdem Civitatis (450) extiterint vnde decem decem novem octo septem sex quinque quatuor & tres eorum (451) quorum Maiorem vel Recordatorem si in Civitate fuerit vel seniore Aldermannorum Civitatis (452) predictae tunc ibidem residentem & in absentia Recordatoris predicti vnum esse volumus (453) de cetero imperpetuum de tempore in tempus habeant & teneant ac habere & tenere (454) valeant & possint quatuor Sessiones pacis infra Civitatem predictam ad tempora (455) vsualia & per Statutos in ea parte appunctuata vt antehac ibidem vsitatum fuit ac ea (456) omnia & singula infra eandem Civitatem & suburba & precinctus predicta ac eisdem (457) modo & forma facienda exercenda & exequenda ad aliquod tempus sive (458) tempora quotiens<sup>1</sup> opus fuerit quot & qualia aliqui alii Iusticiarii ad aliquas Gaolas (459) seu Gaolam deliberandas habent exercent & exequuntur vel habere exercere & exequi (460) debebunt vel poterint alibi infra Regnum nostrum Anglie predictum (quorum in tali (461) casu Maiorem & Recordatorem Civitatis predictae pro tempore existentes duos esse volumus) (462) Salvis semper nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris omnibus & singulis finibus exitibus & (463) Amerciamenis forisfacturis & alijs proficuis coram dictis Iusticiariis ad Gaolam predictae Civitatis (464) Bristollie deliberandam & eorum quolibet faciendis forisfaciendis sive adiudicandis Proviso (465) semper & volumus quod separales Iusticiarii ad pacem predicti iurentur & eorum quilibet (466) iuretur de tempore in tempus respective ad Officia & fiducias illa debito modo (467) performandum & exequendum secundum Leges & Statutos huius Regni nostri Anglie coram (468) Commissionariis inferius nominatis aut talibus alijs persona & personis & talibus loco & modo (469) qualibus antehac in ea parte vsitatum fuit in Civitate predicta Volumus etiam ac per (470) presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & (471) Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores sui de cetero (472) imperpetuum habeant & habebunt infra Civitatem predictam vnum virum idoneum & honestum (473) qui erit & vocabitur Communis Clericus Civitatis predictae Et pro meliori executione voluntatis (474) nostre in hac parte Assignavimus ordinavimus constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes (475) pro

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *quoties*.

nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Assignamus nominamus ordinamus constituimus <476> & facimus Dilectum nobis Johannem Romsey Armigerum fore & esse primum & modernum <477> Communem Clericum Civitatis predicte continuandum in dicto Officio durante vita sua naturali <478> Et volumus & concedimus quod dictus Johannes Romsey & quilibet alius succedens <479> Communis Clericus Civitatis predicte pro tempore existens habeant teneant & gaudeant <480> ac habere tenere & gaudere valeant & possint tot tanta talia eadem & huiusmodi <481> Officia vadia proficua perquisita & emolumenta quecunque que quanta & qualia aliquis <482> Communis Clericus Civitatis predicte antehac tempora habuit tenuit vel gavisus fuit <483> aut habere tenere & gaudere valeat aut possit aut debuit Ipso prefato Johanne <484> Romsey & quolibet alio succedenti Commune Clerico Civitatis predicte de cetero imperpetuum <485> sacramenta predicta in predicto Actu Parlamenti mencionata Necnon omnia alia <486> Iuramenta vsualiter administrata antehac Communi Clerico Civitatis predicte tempore <487> admissionis sue ad Officium Communis Clerici Civitatis predicte prius prestante Et insuper <488> volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori <489> Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predicte & Successoribus suis quod si acciderit predictum <490> Johannem Romsey vel aliquem alium Communem Clericum Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentem <491> obire vel amoveri ab Officio illo liceat & licebit Maiori & Communi Concilio Civitatis <492> predicte pro tempore existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem Civitatis predicte pro tempore <493> existentem vnum esse volumus) eligere & nominare vnam aliam personam in loco ipsius sic mortui <494> vel amoti ab Officio predicto Proviso semper & volumus quod nullus ad Officium Communis <495> Clerici Civitatis predicte electus erit nisi sit in legibus Anglie peritus & Barrasterius per spacium <496> trium annorum ad minimum & quod nulla persona sic electa vel eligenda in casu mortis <497> vel amocionis sue<sup>1</sup> ad Officium Communis Clerici Civitatis predicte admittetur sacramenta et <498> Iuramenta predicta prestare vel exercere Officium Communis Clerici Civitatis predicte antequam <499> nos heredes vel successores nostri significabunt approbacionem ipsius sic electus vel <500> eligendus ad dictum Officium Communis Clerici sub manu regali nostri heredum vel successorum <501> nostrorum qua<sup>2</sup> signifi-

<sup>1</sup> On the ambiguous *sue*, consult Seyer, p. 276, n. 11.

<sup>2</sup> *qui* in MS.



cione favoris & approbacionis sic habita & obtenta liceat & (502) licebit Maiori Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existenti administrare sacramenta et (503) Iuramenta predicta eidem persone sic electe & approbate vt prefertur & eum ad (504) execucionem Officij Communis Clerici Civitatis predictæ admittere Cuiquidem Maiori Civitatis (505) predictæ pro tempore existenti dandi & administrandi sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta, prefato (506) Communi Clerico potestatem & authoritatem damus & Concedimus per presentes absque (507) aliquo alio Warranto vel Commissione a nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris in (508) ea parte procurando aut obtinendo Proviso etiam & volumus quod nullus Communis (509) Clericus Civitatis predictæ durante continuacione sua in Officio illo sit aut erit Aldermannus sive (510) Vicecomes Civitatis sive Comitatus predicti Volumus etiam ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus (511) & Successoribus nostris Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictæ & successoribus suis (512) Concedimus quod ipsi & successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant & habebunt (513) infra Civitatem predictam vnum Senescallum pro Curia Vicecomitis Comitatus Civitatis Bristollie (514) predictæ Et pro meliori execucione voluntatis & Concessionis nostre in hac parte (515) Assignavimus ordinavimus constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes (516) pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus ordinamus (517) constituimus & facimus Dilectum nobis Johannem Robins fore & esse primum (518) Senescallum Curie Vicecomitis Civitatis predictæ continuandum in Officio illo durante (519) vita sua naturali Et volumus & Concedimus quod dictus Johannes Robins et (520) quilibet alius succedens Senescallus Curie predictæ imposterum eligendus habeant teneant & (521) gaudeant ac habere tenere & gaudere valeant & possint tot tanta talia eadem & (522) huiusmodi Officia vadia proficua perquisita & emolumenta quecunque que quanta & qualia (523) Senescalli Curie Vicecomitis Comitatus & Civitatis predictæ ante hec tempora habuerunt tenuerunt (524) vel gavisi fuerunt aut habere tenere & gaudere valeant aut possint aut debuerunt (525) Ipso prefato Johanne Robins & quolibet alio succedenti Senescallo Curie Vicecomitis predictæ (526) de cetero imperpetuum prestante predicta sacramenta in predicto Actu Parliamenti mencionata necnon (527) omnia alia Iuramenta antehac vsualiter administrata Senescallo Curie Vicecomitis Comitatus (528) Civitatis Bristolie predictæ tempore admissionis sue ad Officium Senescalli dicte Curie (529) Vicecomitis prestita Et insuper volumus ac

per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <530> nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis <531> quod si contigerit predictum Johannem Robins vel aliquem alium Senescallum Curie <532> Vicecomitis Civitatis predictae pro tempore existentem obire vel amoveri ab Officio illo vel in <533> casu alterius vacantie liceat & licebit Maiori & Communi Concilio Civitatis predictae pro <534> tempore existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem pro tempore existentem vnum esse <535> volumus) eligere & nominare vnam aliam personam in loco ipsius sic mortui vel ab Officio <536> predicto amoti & sic toties quoties casus sic acciderit Proviso semper & volumus <537> quod nullus ad Officium Senescalli Curie Vicecomitis Civitatis predictae electus erit nisi sit <538> in legibus eruditus & Barrasterius per spatium trium annorum ad minimum & quod nulla persona <539> sic electa vel eligenda ad Officium Senescalli predictum in casu mortis vel amocionis <540> vt prefertur admittetur sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta prestare vel exercere Officium Senescalli <541> Curie predictae vsque nos heredes vel successores nostri significabimus vel significabunt <542> approbacionem ipsius sic electi vel eligendi ad Officium Senescalli Curie predictae sub manu <543> regali nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum qua significacione favoris & approbacionis sic <544> habita & obtenta vt prefertur liceat & licebit Maiori Civitatis predictae pro tempore existenti <545> administrare sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta eidem persone sic electe & approbate vt <546> prefertur & eum ad execucionem Officij Senescalli Curie predictae admittere Cuiquidem <547> Maiori Civitatis predictae pro tempore existenti dandi & administrandi sacramenta & Iuramenta <548> predicta prefato Senescallo Curie Vicecomitis predictae potestatem & authoritatem damus et <549> Concedimus per presentes absque aliquo alio Warranto vel Commissione a nobis heredibus <550> vel successoribus nostris in ea parte procurando aut obtinendo Volumus insuper ac per <551> presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus <552> et Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores sui de <553> cetero imperpetuum habeant & habebunt infra Civitatem predictam duos Coronatores infra <554> Civitatem predictam [*sic*] Et pro meliori execucione voluntatis nostre in hac parte Assignavimus <555> nominavimus constituimus & fecimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <556> nostris Assignamus nominamus constituimus

& facimus Dilectos nobis Georgium <557> Lunell & Rowland Searchfeild fore & esse primos Coronatores Civitatis eiusdem <558> Et volumus quod dicti Georgius Lunell & Rowland Searchfeild & Coronatores <559> eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes antequam admissionem suam in Officium predictum <560> capient & recipient respective Iuramentum ligeantie Anglice the Oath of <561> Allegiance in predicto Actu Parliamenti appunctuatum necnon Iuramenta vsualiter <562> antehac capta & prestita per Coronatores predictos Civitatis Et volumus ac per presentes pro nobis <563> heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus quod in casu mortis vel amocionis predictorum <564> Georgij Lunell & Rowland Searchfeild aut eorum alterius vel alicuius alij Coronatoris <565> eiusdem Civitatis imposterum eligendi vel in casu alicuius alterius vacantie Officij <566> illius liceat & licebit Maiori & Communi Concilio Civitatis predictae pro tempore existentibus vel <567> maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentem vnum esse <568> volumus) eligere & nominare vnum vel duos in loco & Officio ipsius vel ipsorum <569> sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel amotorum vt prefertur Proviso semper & volumus <570> quod nulla persona imposterum electa vel eligenda ad Officium Coronatoris eiusdem <571> Civitatis iuretur vel ad execucionem Officij Coronatoris eiusdem Civitatis admissus <572> erit antequam nos heredes vel successores nostri significabimus vel <573> significabunt approbacionem nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum ipsius vel ipsorum <574> sic electi vel eligendi electorum vel eligendorum ad dictum Officium Coronatoris eiusdem <575> Civitatis sub manu regali nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum qua approbacione <576> sic habita & obtenta vt prefertur liceat & licebit Maiori eiusdem Civitatis pro <577> tempore existenti administrare sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta prefate persone vel <578> personis sic approbatis vt prefertur & eum vel eos ad execucionem Officij Coronatoris <579> Civitatis predictae admittere Cuiquidem Maiori Civitatis predictae pro tempore <580> existenti prefato Coronatori eiusdem Civitatis pro tempore existenti sacramenta & Iuramenta <581> predicta dandi & administrandi plenam potestatem & authoritatem damus & Concedimus <582> per presentes absque aliquo alio Warranto brevi vel Commissione a nobis heredibus vel <583> successoribus nostris in ea parte procurando aut obtinendo Et Vltcrius volumus et <584> precipimus quod Maior Vicecomites Communes Consiliarij Aldermanni Iusticiarij <585> ad pacem Communis Clericus

Senescallus Curie Vicecomitis & Coronatores Civitatis et <586> Comitatus predicti & quilibet eorum in hijs presentibus nominati & constituti (prefato Johanne <587> Churchill Milite excepto) respective sacramentum Corporale ligeantie Anglice <588> vocatum the Oath of Allegiance & sacramenta per predictum Actum Parliamenti appunctuata <589> necnon omnia Iuramenta in omnibus & per omnia Officia & fiducias suas respective <590> tangencia bene & fideliter exequendi prestabunt & eorum quilibet prestabit coram <591> predilecto & perquamfideli Consiliario nostro Francisco Barone de Guildford Custode <592> magni sigilli nostri Anglie predilecto & perquamfideli Consanguineo & Consiliario nostro <593> Henrico Duce de Beaufort predilecto & perquamfideli Consanguineo nostro Carolo <594> Marchione de Worcestria filio & herede apparenti premencionati Ducis de Beaufort <595> predilecto & perquamfideli<sup>1</sup> Consiliario nostro Leolino Jenkins Milite <596> & dilectis & fidelibus nostris Carolo Kemish<sup>2</sup> Baronetto Johanne Smith Baronetto<sup>3</sup> Jacobo Herbert Milite et Johanne <597> Fitzherbert Armigero aut aliquibus tribus eorum (quorum predictum Franciscum Baronem de <598> Guilford Custodem magni sigilli nostri aut Henricum Ducem de Beaufort aut <599> Carolum Marchionem de Worcestria vel Leolinum Jenkins Militem vnum esse volumus) <600> quibusquidem Francisco Baroni de Guilford Custodi magni sigilli nostri Henrico <601> Duci de Beaufort Carolo Marchioni de Worcestria predictis Leolino Jenkins Militi <602> Carolo Kemish Baronetto Johanni Smith Baronetto Jacobo Herbert Militi & Johanni Fitzherbert aut <603> aliquibus tribus eorum (quorum predictum Custodem magni sigilli nostri aut Henricum Ducem <604> de Beaufort aut Carolum Marchionem de Worcestria predictum vel Leolinum Jenkins Militem <605> vnum esse volumus) dandi & administrandi seperalia sacramenta & Iuramenta predicta <606> separalibus & respectivis Officiarijs & personis predictis plenam potestatem & authoritatem <607> damus & Concedimus per presentes absque aliquo<sup>4</sup> alio Commissione vel warranto a <608> nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris in ea parte procurando aut obtinendo Volumus <609> etiam quod predictus Johannes Churchill Miles separalia sacramenta pro debita execucione

<sup>1</sup> An erasure follows *perquamfideli* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> I.e. Kemeys.

<sup>3</sup> *Johanne Smith Baronetto* interlineated over caret.

<sup>4</sup> *aliqua* in MS.

<610> seperalium Officiorum & fiduciarum Recordatoris Alder-  
 manni & Iusticiarij ad pacem Civitatis <611> predicte necnon  
 sacramentum vocatum the Oath of Allegiance & Iuramenta per  
 Actum <612> Parliamenti predictum appunctuata prestabit  
 coram prefatis Francisco Barone de Guilford <613> Custode  
 magni sigilli nostri Henrico Duce de Beaufort Carolo Marchione  
 de <614> Worcestria predictis & Leolino Jenkins Milite aut  
 aliquo vno eorum quibusquidem Custodi <615> magni sigilli  
 nostri Henrico Duci de Beaufort Carolo Marchioni de Worcestria  
 predictis <616> & Leolino Jenkins Militi aut alicui vno<sup>1</sup> eorum  
 dandi & administrandi seperalia sacramenta <617> & Iuramenta  
 prefato Johanni Churchill Militi plenam potestatem & auctoritatem  
 damus <618> & Concedimus per presentes absque aliquo alio  
 Commissione vel warranto a nobis <619> in ea parte procurando  
 aut obtinendo Proviso semper ac plenam potestatem et <620>  
 auctoritatem nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per presentes  
 reservamus de tempore <621> in tempus & ad omnia tempora  
 imposterum ad Maiorem Recordatorem & aliquem <622> vel  
 aliquos Aldermannorum vel Vicecomitum & aliquem vel aliquos  
 de Communi Consilio <623> vel Communem Clericum Senescallum  
 vel Coronatores Civitatis predicte per presentes nominatos <624>  
 & constitutos vel imposterum nominandos & eligendos ad libitum  
 & beneplacitum nostrum heredum vel <625> successorum  
 nostrorum per aliquem ordinem nostram heredum vel successorum  
 nostrorum in Privato <626> Concilio factam & sub sigillo Privati  
 Concilij predicti eisdem respective significatam <627> ad  
 amovendum & amotum & amotos esse declarandum Et quoties  
 nos heredes vel <628> Successores nostri per aliquem talem  
 ordinem in Privato Concilio factam declarabimus <629> huiusmodi  
 Maiorem Recordatorem aut aliquem vel aliquos Aldermannorum  
 Vicecomitum & aliquem <630> vel aliquos de Communi Concilio  
 aut Communem Clericum Senescallum seu Coronatores eiusdem  
 <631> Civitatis qui nunc per presentes nominati & constituti  
 sunt vel imposterum erunt electi <632> & nominati fore & esse  
 amotum vel amotos a respectivis Officijs predictis quod tunc  
 <633> & extunc Maior Recordator & aliquis vel aliqui Alder-  
 mannorum vel Vicecomitum & aliquis <634> vel aliqui de  
 Communi Concilio aut Communis Clericus Senescallus seu  
 Coronatores eiusdem <635> Civitatis per presentes nunc consti-  
 tuti & nominati vel imposterum constituendi & eligendi <636>  
 sic amotum vel amotos esse declaratos sive declarandos a

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *vni*.

seperalibus respectivis <637> Officijs & fiducijs suis ipso facto & sine aliquo vltiori processu realiter & ad omnes <638> Intenciones & proposita quecunque amoti sint & erint & amotus sit & erit Et hoc <639> toties casus sic acciderit aliquo in contrarium non obstante Volumus etiam ac per <640> presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris Concedimus & precipimus quod omnia <641> frumenta & grana imposterum in Civitatem predictam porta per terram vendita & empta erunt <642> apud antiquum forum mercatorium (Anglice the antient Markett place) in le <643> Wine Street infra Civitatem predictam Volumus insuper ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & <644> successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predicte <645> & successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant <646> & custodiant & habere tenere & custodire valeant & possint vnum mercatum pro <647> empcone & vendicione omnium & omnimodorum granorum importorum per aquam ad Portum (Anglice <648> the Key) Civitatis Bristollie predicte apud locum Communiter vocatum Aldworths Slip scituatum <649> super dictum Portum Bristollie & exinde secus eundem fluvium vocatum Froom versus le <650> Gibb per spacium tringintarum virgarum (Anglice thirty yards) Et volumus & Concedimus <651> quod dictum mercatum gubernatum & appunctuatum sit & erit prout Maiori & Aldermannis eiusdem <652> Civitatis pro tempore existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem pro tempore existentem <653> vnum esse volumus) expediens videbitur Proviso semper & precipimus pro nobis <654> heredibus & successoribus nostris quod de cetero imperpetuum omnia & tanta grana que imposterum <655> importa erunt ad alteram partem Civitatis predicte (Anglice to the back of the said <656> Citty) ibidem vendita & empta poterint Attamen volumus quod dictum mercatum regulatum <657> erit & rationabilia Tallagia exinde provenientia emergentia & crescentia facta & soluta erunt <658> in talibus modo & quantitate qualibus Maiori & Aldermannis Civitatis predicte pro tempore <659> existentibus vel maiori parti eorum (quorum Maiorem pro tempore existentem<sup>1</sup> vnum esse volumus) <660> conveniens & expediens videbitur Volumus etiam ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus <661> & successoribus nostris Concedimus Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predicte & <662> successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant <663> & custodiant & habere

<sup>1</sup> *vel maiori . . . existentem* omitted by Seyer, p. 287.

tenere & custodire valeant & possint tres ferias sive nundinas <664> pro empcone & vendicione omnium & omnimodorum lanarum lanarum [*sic*]<sup>1</sup> pannorum & laneorum <665> opificiorum in diebus inferius mencionatis videlicet primam earum in & super decimum octavum diem <666> Mensis Aprilis & pro duobus diebus duraturam secundam incipienda & tenenda in & super <667> decimum diem Mensis Iunij & pro duobus diebus duratura & tertiam earundem Feriarum <668> incipiendam & tenendam in & super primum diem Iovis proxime sequentem Festum Sancti Michaelis <669> Archiangeli & per illum diem duraturam nisi aliquis prius mencionatorum quatuor dierum acciderit <670> esse dies Dominicus & tunc in & super diem lune proxime sequentem dictas separales Ferias <671> sive Nundinas diebus predictis custodiendas & tenendas in Vico infra Civitatem predictam <672> communiter vocato Kingstreet scituato infra parochiam de Sancto Nicholao & Sancto Stephano <673> qui vicus determinatus septentrionali fine eiusdem cum Aula Mercatorum ibidem <674> Necnon Australi fine eiusdem Vici cum Fluvio Avonis Necnon Concedimus <675> Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis quod ipsi et <676> successores sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant & custodiant ac habere tenere <677> & custodire valeant & possint quinque ferias sive Nundinas pro empcone & vendicione <678> omnium & omnimodorum equorum equarum & equuleorum diebus proxime mencionatis videlicet primam earum <679> feriarum tenendam & custodiendam in & super vicesimum quintum diem Mensis Ianuarij in <680> Vico vocato Templestreet & continuare durante Festo Sancti Pauli secundam predictarum <681> feriarum tenendam & custodiendam apud Redcliff Hill in & super vicesimum quintum et <682> vicesimum sextum dies mensis Martij tertiam earum feriarum tenendam & custodiendam <683> in Broad Mead in parochia Sancti Iacobi in & super vicesimum quintum & vicesimum sextum <684> dies Mensis Maij quartam earum Feriarum tenendam & custodiendam in Templestreet <685> predicto in & super vicesimum quintum vicesimum sextum & vicesimum septimum dies mensis <686> Septembris & quintam predictarum feriarum tenendam & custodiendam super Redcliff Hill in & super <687> vicesimum quintum vicesimum sextum & vicesimum septimum dies Mensis Novembris <688> predictas separales ferias sive Nundinas in separalibus locis & diebus predictis nisi aliquis <689> predictorum

<sup>1</sup> A blank space follows the second *lanarum* in the MS.

dierum acciderit esse dies Dominicus & tunc in & super diem Lune proxime sequentem <690> tenenda & custodienda annuatim & quolibet Anno de cetero imperpetuum secundum <691> Intencionem harum literarum nostrarum Patentium vnacum Curia pedum pulverizatorum ibidem tempore <692> earundem separalium feriarum sive Nundinarum tenenda Necnon cum omnibus libertatibus <693> & liberis consuetudinibus ad huiusmodi Curiam pertinentibus simul cum theolonijs stallagijs piccagijs <694> finibus Amerciamentis ac omnibus alijs proficuis Commoditatibus & emolumentis quibuscunque <695> ad huiusmodi Mercata ferias sive Nundinas & Curias pedum pulverizatorum respective pertinentibus <696> spectantibus emergentibus accidentibus sive contingentibus ita tamen quod dicta seperalia <697> Mercata sive Nundine aut eorum aliquod non sint vel sit ad nocumentum vicinorum Mercatorum <698> feriarum sive Nundinarum Volumus insuper ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus <699> nostris Concedimus prefatis Maiori Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus <700> suis quod iidem Maior Burgenses & Communitas & Cives Civitatis predictae & successores <701> sui de cetero imperpetuum habeant teneant vtantur & gaudeant ac plene habere <702> tenere vti & gaudere possint & valeant imperpetuum omnia donaciones Concessionones <703> Curias Libertates Exempciones Franchiesas quietancias Articula Immunitates & Consuetudines <704> tam in hijs presentibus quam in aliquibus alijs Chartis sive literis Patentibus nostris seu <705> aliquorum vel alicuius Progenitorum sive antecessorum nostrorum nuper Regum vel Reginarum <706> Anglie contenta declarata explanata specificata seu confirmata Aceciam omnia et <707> singula alia Franchiesas privilegia terras tenementa & hereditamenta libertates Consuetudines <708> exempciones & quietancias tam per terram quam per aquam [que] Maiori Burgensibus et <709> Communitati vel Civibus Burgensibus aut Inhabitantibus Civitatis predictae per antea legitime <710> concessa fuerunt vel per illos vel eorum aliquem per aliquod nomen sive per aliqua nomina <711> Incorporacionis antehac legitime vsa vel gavisia fuerunt & que per presentes non mutata <712> existunt Et ea pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est prefatis Maiori <713> Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis imperpetuum de gracia nostra speciali <714> tenore presencium damus restituimus approbamus et confirmamus per presentes Ac insuper <715> volumus & per presentes pro nobis heredibus & successoribus



nostris Concedimus prefatis Maiori <716> Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predicte & successoribus suis quod ipsi & successores <717> sui ad omnia & singula authoritates Iurisdicciones libertates privilegia Francherias <718> quietancias Immunitates & liberas Consuetudines predecessorum suorum restituantur ac <719> eadem ipsis & successoribus suis restituimus per presentes adeo plene libere et <720> integre sicut ipsi vel Predecessores sui ea aliquibus temporibus aliquorum <721> Progenitorum vel Antecessorum nostrorum quondam Regum vel Reginarum Anglie liberius <722> plenius & vtilius habuerunt exercuerunt vti vel gavisii fuerunt vel habere exercere <723> gaudere vel vti debuerunt Volentes ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris de gracia <724> nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia & mero motu nostris eisdem Maiori Burgensibus <725> & Communitati Civitatis predicte & successoribus suis Concedentes quod licet Maior <726> burgenses & Communitas Civitatis predicte aut Predecessores sui aliquo vel aliquibus <727> authoritatibus Iurisdiccionibus libertatibus privilegijs Franchesijs Immunitatibus quietancijs & liberis <728> Consuetudinibus in literis Patentibus [&] Cartis predictis seu earum aliqua contentis aut alijs <729> Consuetudinibus suis aliquo casu emergenti etiamsi hactenus vsa non fuerunt seu forsani <730> abusa fuerunt Ipsi tamen Maior Burgenses & Communitas Civitatis predicte & successores <731> sui eisdem authoritatibus Iurisdiccionibus libertatibus Privilegijs Franchesijs Immunitatibus <732> quietancijs & liberis consuetudinibus suis quibuscunque totaliter non vsa seu abusa [&] eorum <733> quolibet de cetero imperpetuum plene gaudeant & vtantur sine occasione vel impedimento <734> nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum aut Iusticiariorum Vicecomitum Coronatorum Escaetorum Clericorum <735> Mercatorum aut aliquorum aliorum Ballivorum seu Ministrorum nostrorum heredum vel successorum <736> nostrorum quoruncunque aliqua causa materia seu re quacunque temporibus retroactis <737> in contrarium inde habita facta seu provisa non obstante Quare volumus ac per presentes <738> pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris firmiter Iniungendo precipimus quod prefati <739> Maior Burgenses & Communitas Civitatis predicte & successores sui habeant teneant <740> vtantur & gaudeant ac plene habere tenere vti & gaudere possint & valeant <741> imperpetuum omnes libertates authoritates & quietancias ac alia premissa predicta secundum <742> tenorem & effectum harum literarum nostrarum Patentium sine occasione vel impedimento nostri <743> heredum

vel successorum nostrorum Iusticiariorum Vicecomitum sive aliorum Ballivorum seu Ministrorum <744> nostrorum heredum vel successorum nostrorum quorumcunque Habenda tenenda & gaudenda <745> omnia & singula premissa predicta superius per presentes concessa prefatis Maiori <746> Burgensibus & Communitati Civitatis predictae & successoribus suis imperpetuum Tenenda de <747> nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris vt prius tenebantur Ac reddenda & solvenda <748> nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris annuatim tot tanta talia eadem & huiusmodi <749> redditus<sup>1</sup> servitia denariorum summas & demandas quecunque quot quanta qualia et <750> que pro premissis seu eorum aliquo vel aliquibus reddi seu solvi debent Eo quod <751> expressa mencio &c In cuius rei &c Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium secundo die <752> Iunij

*Per breve de Privato Sigillo.*

## XXV

### GRANT OF LIBERTIES, 1710<sup>2</sup>

#### *Letters Patent of 24 July, 9 Anne*

*In answer to a petition of the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty for confirmation of all powers, jurisdictions and franchises held of old, together with such additions as might seem necessary, the Queen makes the following grants for the sake of peace and good government.*

*The city "shall be and shall remain in perpetuity a City Incorporated and a County by itself," and the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty shall be one body corporate and political by the name of "the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty of the City of Bristol." Its boundaries are to be the same as those of the last forty years.*

*The existing officers of the city are confirmed in office during good behaviour; the Mayor and Sheriffs until 15 September next, the others for life. That is, Robert Bound, Esquire, as Mayor; Sir Robert Eyre, Knight, as Recorder and first Alderman; and as Aldermen, the following: William Jackson, William Swymmer, Robert Yate, Samuel Wallis, John Bachelor, Esquires, Sir William Daines, Sir John Hawkins, Sir William Lewis, Knights, Francis*

<sup>1</sup> *reditus* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> This charter is based on that of 1684. For the many significant alterations see *supra* pp. 59-60.

*Whitchurch and Nathaniel Day, Esquires, together with George Stevens, Esquire, once elected Alderman. As Common Councilmen, the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, William Whitehead, Esquire (ex-Mayor), James Haynes and Thomas Clements, Esquires (Sheriffs), Giles Merrick, Richard Bayly, Abraham Elton, Christopher Shuter, Thomas Hort, Henry Whitehead, Anthony Swymmer, Henry Walter, Morgan Smith, Abraham Hooke, Nicholas Hickes, Onesiphorus Tyndall, Thomas Tyler, Philip Freke and John Day (ex-Sheriffs), and William Bayly, Hugh Bickham, John Lloyd, and Edmund Mountjoy. As Sheriffs, James Haynes and Thomas Clements, Esquires; as Common Clerk, John Romsey, Esquire; as Steward of the Sheriffs' Court, Nathaniel Wade, Esquire; and as Coroners, Martin Nelme and James Millard, Gentlemen.*

*The Common Council shall consist of 42 members apart from the Mayor, and the vacancies at present existing through deaths and through the refusal of burgesses properly elected to serve, shall be filled so as to bring up the numbers to their proper total. For that purpose the Mayor is to summon a meeting of Common Council at any time before 15 September next, to make elections to the vacant places from the burgesses of the city. In addition, the Council is without delay to make laws enforcing the election of Councillors, or of any other officers, by appropriate fines and penalties. The Council's right of making ordinances for the good government of the city, and of imposing and enforcing penalties for their infringement, in as full a manner as it ever possessed, is hereby confirmed, together with all the powers it has enjoyed in the past.*

*In the case of the death or dismissal of an Alderman, the Mayor is to summon the remaining Aldermen, who, with the Mayor, will elect a successor from among the Common Councilmen. If a Mayor, Recorder, Sheriff, Councillor, Common Clerk, Steward of the Sheriffs' Court or Coroner dies or is removed, or if an election to such office is negatived by refusal or incapacity to serve, then the successor or successors shall be elected by the Common Council, or a majority thereof, and sworn in by the Mayor or by any other such person, at such time and place as has been usual during the past forty years.*

*The Recorder, Common Clerk, and Steward of the Sheriffs' Court shall in future be men "expert in the laws of Great Britain." The Recorder shall be, at the time of his election, a barrister of five years' standing; the others, barristers of three years' standing. These officers, together with the Aldermen, Councillors and Coroners, are to hold office during good behaviour.*

*The Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen are to be Justices of the Peace, and able to act severally as such. Any group of three or more of them, including the Mayor and Recorder, are to be justices to enquire by jury into all manner of treasons, murders, rapes and other felonies, to hear and determine all indictments, and to deliver the gaol. Any group of three or more of them, including either the Mayor or the Recorder or two of the five senior Aldermen, are to hold Quarter Sessions, at the usual times and with the usual powers. In all courts within the city and county the fines, redemptions, issues, profits and amercements are to accrue to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty, without any account being made to the Crown.*

*George Stephens Esquire, and all Aldermen elected in future are to take the oath of Alderman and of Justice of the Peace before the Recorder or the Mayor.*

*The Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty, with all their officers past and present, are hereby pardoned for all offences against the Letters Patent of 2 June 36 Charles II, in giving or taking oaths without royal approval, or in granting or accepting any office without the King's consent given under his hand. The Queen, of her more abundant grace, renounces to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty, on behalf of herself and of all her successors, the power assumed in those Letters Patent of confirming appointments by royal authority, and of appointing and dismissing officers by mandate from the Privy Council.*

*The Common Council is to have the power by written ordinance to regulate all markets within the city, and to alter their times and sites, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the said Letters Patent of Charles II.*

*Finally, by her ampler grace, the Queen gives to the Mayor, Burgesses and Commonalty all "Jurisdictions, Liberties, Powers and Franchises, Exemptions, Privileges, Emoluments and Hereditaments whatsoever" which they have held of old by virtue of the gifts of her predecessors, together with the alterations and additions abovementioned.*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 01245. It consists of four skins, measuring  $29\frac{1}{2}$ " in width, and in length, 27" (m.1), 24" (m.2), 23" (m.3), and  $22\frac{1}{4}$ " (m.4). The capitals in line 1 of m.1 are elaborated by hand, while the top and side margins of each skin are covered in printed decorations. There is a £4 stamp on each membrane. The seal, in green wax, is attached by red and white (? gilt) cords which have been broken and re-tied through new holes in the lower margin; the original holes still visible.*

*Endorsements: City of Bristol Charter Perpetuity Cocks.  
Anne*

*Enrolment: P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 9 Anne, pt. 5, no. 11.*

*Copy: C.T. 00229; an extract in an eighteenth-century hand, consisting of the style and address, a passage from m.2, line 43 to m.3, line 10, and the datal clause.*

*Printed copy and translation: Seyer, Charters, 295-317.*

*Translations:*

(1) *The Charters of Bristol (C.T. 04390),<sup>1</sup> pp. 77-87; made from the original and including the note of payment in the Hanaper, but not the note of enrolment in the Exchequer. Therefore c. 1710-40.*

(2) *The Old Charter of Ye City of Bristol . . . (C.T. 04391), pp. 115-26; made from the original, or from (1), and including the note of payment in the Hanaper, but not the note of enrolment in the Exchequer. Therefore c. 1710-40.*

(3) [*printed*] *F. Farley, Bristol, the City Charters, 273-297.<sup>2</sup>*

*M.C.R. 1161 et seq.; Latimer, Calendar, 167-8.*

Anna Dei Gratia Magnae Britanniae<sup>3</sup> <2> Franciae et Hiberniae Regina fidei Defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes Litere Nostre pervenerint Salutem Cum Dilecti et fideles Subditi Nostri Major Būrgenses et Communitas <3> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie per humilem eorum Peticionem Nobis Supplicaverint Concedere eis et Successoribus suis omnes et singulas Potestates Jurisdicciones et Franchlesias quas ipsi Major <4> Burgenses et Communitas Civitatis Bristollie predictae virtute Concessionum sive Literarum Patentium eis antehac Concessarum per Regales Nostros Antecessores nunc gavisi sunt unacum talibus Addicionibus Regulacionibus <5> et Privilegiis qualibus Nobis et summa Sapientia Nostra convenientes viderentur eis Concedere pro Stabilimento et bono Regimine Civitatis Nostre predictae Sciatis Modo Quod Nos meliorem <6> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie et Comitatus ejusdem

<sup>1</sup> See *supra* p. 177.

<sup>2</sup> Three other printed translations exist. They are listed in E. R. Norris Mathews, *Bristol Bibliography*, 54.

<sup>3</sup> In October 1604 James I assumed the style of "King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc.," but the old style ("King of England, Scotland" and so on) remained the normal usage for legal instruments and generally for domestic purposes until the Union of the Kingdoms in 1707. This charter is therefore the first of the Bristol series in which the new style is employed. Cf. *E.H.R.*, lx, 192-216.

Gratiose affectantes et Volentes quod in eadem Civitate et Comitatu ejusdem continue habeatur Unus certus et indubitatus modus pro custodia <7> Pacis et meliori Regimine et gubernacione Populi ibidem Et quod Civitas predicta imperpetuum sit et permaneat Civitas pacis et Quietis ad Premium bonorum et terrorem malorum Sperantesque quod si Cives ejusdem Civitatis <8> et Successores sui amplioribus ex Concessione nostra frui et gaudere poterint Libertatibus proficuis et privilegiis tunc ad Servitium Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris impendendum et exhibendum specialius fortiusque se <9> sentiant obligatos de Gratia Nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu Nostris necnon ad gratificandum prefatis Dilectis et Fidelibus Subditis Nostris Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae <10> concedendo predictam<sup>1</sup> suam Peticionem Volumus Constituimus Declaravimus Ordinavimus et Concessimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Volumus Constituimus Declaramus Ordinamus et <11> Concedimus quod predicta Civitas Bristollie sit et permaneat imperpetuum Civitas Incorporata et Comitatus de se talibus et in tam amplis et largis Finibus Circuitibus et Procinctibus tam per aquam quam per terram terminati et <12> limitati prout eadem Civitas et Comitatus ejusdem ad aliquod tempus infra spatium quadraginta annorum jam ultimo elapsorum terminati et limitati fuerunt Ac etiam quod prefati Major Burgenses et Communitas dicte <13> Civitatis Bristollie et Successores sui imperpetuum sint erunt et permaneant Unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine per nomen Majoris Burgensium et Communitatis Civitatis Bristollie Et <14> Assignavimus Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus Nominamus Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectum <15> Nobis Robertum Bound Armigerum modo Major dictae Civitatis fore Presentem Majorem ejusdem Civitatis Bristollie Volentes quod idem Robertus Bound in Officio Majoris ejusdem Civitatis erit et Continuabit <16> usque ad et in decimum quintum diem Septembris proxime futuro et abinde quousque unus alius ad Officium illud Electus Prefectus et juratus fuerit si idem Robertus Bound in Officio predicto se bene tam diu gesserit <17> Assignavimus etiam Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus Nominamus Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectum <18> et fidelem Nostrum Robertum Eyre

<sup>1</sup> *concedendo predictam* written over an erasure.

Militem unum Justiciariorum nostrorum ad Placita coram Nobis tenenda assignandorum presentem Recordatorem Civitatis predictae fore et permanere Recordator Civitatis Bristollie quamdiu se <19> bene gesserit in eodem Officio Nec Non Assignavimus nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus Nominamus <20> Constituimus et Confirmamus prefatum Robertum Eyre presentem Primum Aldermannum Civitatis Bristollie predictae fore et permanere et quemlibet alium Recordatorem ejusdem Civitatis in futuro esse et permanere <21> primum Aldermannum Civitatis Bristollie predictae quamdiu Recordator ejusdem Civitatis remanserit Nec Non Dilectos Nobis Willelmum Jackson, Willelmum Swymmer Robertum Yate Samuelem Wallis Johannem <22> Bacheler Armigeros Willelmum Daynes Johannem Hawkins Willelmum Lewis Milites Franciscum Whitchurch et Nathanielem Day Armigeros Presentes Aldermannos Civitatis predictae Nec non Georgium Stevens Armigerum nuper <23> electum esse unum Aldermannorum Civitatis Bristollie predictae fore et permanere Aldermannos Civitatis Bristollie predictae et continuandos in Officiis predictis quamdiu se bene respective gesserint in eisdem Volumus insuper <24> Et per Presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie et Successoribus suis quod imperpetuum sint et erunt de melioribus et discretioribus Civibus <25> et Burgensibus Civitatis Bristollie predictae quadraginta et duo persone (preter Majorem Civitatis predictae pro tempore existentem) que erunt et vocabuntur Commune Concilium Civitatis Bristollie Et pro meliori <26> execucione Voluntatis et Concessionis Nostre in hac parte Assignavimus Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus <27> Nominamus Constituimus et Confirmamus prefatum Robertum Bound modo Majorem Civitatis Bristollie predictae Necnon prefatum Robertum Eyre Militem Willelmum Jackson Willelmum Swymmer Robertum Yate <28> Samuelem Wallis Johannem Bacheler Willelmum Daines Johannem Hawkins Willelmum Lewis Franciscum Whitchurch Nathanielem Day et Georgium<sup>1</sup> Stevens Aldermannos Civitatis predictae Et Dilectos Nobis <29> Willelmum Whitehead Armigerum nuper Majorem Civitatis Bristollie predictae Jacobum Haynes et Thomam Clements Armigeros presentes Vicecomites Civitatis Bristollie predictae Et Dilectos Nobis Egidium <30>

<sup>1</sup> *Hawkins* . . . *Georgium* written over erasure in smaller hand.

Merricke Ricardum Bayly Abrahamum Elton Christopherum Shuter Thomam Hort Henricum Whitehead Anthonium Swymmer Henricum Walter Morganum Smith Abrahamum <31> Hook Nicholam Hicks Onesiphorum Tyndale Thomam Tyler Philippum Freke Johannem Day nuper Vicecomites Comitatus Civitatis Bristollie predictae Necnon Willelmum Bayly Hugonem Bickham <32> Johannem Lloyd et Edmundum Mountjoy Cives et Burgenses et presens Commune Concilium Civitatis Bristollie predictae fore et permanere homines de Communi Concilio Anglice Common Council Men et <33> Commune Concilium Civitatis Bristollie predictae continuandos in dictis Officiis hominum de Communi Concilio Civitatis Bristollie predictae quamdiu se bene respective gesserint in eisdem Officiis Et Ulterius Assignavimus <34> Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus Nominamus Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectos Nobis<sup>1</sup> Jacobum Haynes et Thomam Clements <35> Armigeros modo Vicecomites Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae et Comitatus ejusdem Civitatis fore et permanere Vicecomites Civitatis Bristollie et Comitatus ejusdem continuandos in Officio predicto usque ad et in predictum decimum quintum diem Septembris <36> proxime futurum Data presentium et abinde quousque duo alii de Communi Concilio dicte Civitatis Bristollie pro tempore existenti in Officio Vicecomitis Comitatus Civitatis predictae electi et jurati fuerint si ijdem Jacobus Haynes et Thomas Clements <37> in Officio predicto Vicecomitis respective tamdiu se bene gesserint Assignavimus etiam Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus <38> Nominamus<sup>2</sup> Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectos Nobis Johannem Romsey Armigerum presentem Communem Clericum Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae fore et permanere Communem Clericum Civitatis Bristollie predictae continuandum in dicto Officio <39> quamdiu se bene gesserit in eodem Et Ulterius Assignavimus Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus Nominamus <40> Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectum Nobis Nathanielem Wade Armigerum presentem Senescallum Curie Vicecomitis Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae fore et permanere Senescallum Curiae Vicecomitis Comitatus Civitatis Bristollie predictae <41> continuandum in Officio illo quamdiu se bene gesserit in eodem Necnon

<sup>1</sup> *[Assign]amus . . . Nobis* written over erasure in smaller hand.

<sup>2</sup> *Nominamus* written over erasure.



Assignavimus Nominavimus Constituimus et Confirmavimus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Assignamus <42> Nominamus Constituimus et Confirmamus Dilectos Nobis Martinum Nelmes et Jacobum Millard Generosos presentes Coronatores Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictæ fore et permanere Coronatores Civitatis Bristollie predictæ <43> continuandos in Officiis illis quamdiu se bene respective gesserint in eisdem<sup>1</sup> Cumque per mortem aliquorum de Communi Concilio Civitatis predictæ et<sup>2</sup> propter contemptuosam recusacionem quorundam Burgensium Civitatis predictæ esse de Communi <44> Concilio Civitatis predictæ ad quod quidem Officium debito modo respective electi fuerunt septem persone modo defunte ad Complendum predictum Numerum Quadraginta et duorum de Communi Concilio Civitatis predictæ preter Majorem <45> Civitatis predictæ Sciatis Igitur quod Volumus Et per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Precipimus et Ordinamus quod Major Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existens et persone prenominate et constitute homines de <46> Communi Concilio Civitatis predictæ vel major pars eorum ad aliquod tempus vel aliqua tempora per Majorem Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existentem ante decimum quintum diem Septembris proxime sequentem adinde appunctuanda Sese [*End of membrane 1*] Congregabunt Ac etiam quod illi sic Assemblati per eorum Suffragia Eligent et Preficient tot de Burgensibus Civitatis Bristollie predictæ fore et esse homines de Communi Concilio ejusdem <2> Civitatis quot succenturiant et suppleant numerum Quadraginta et duorum de Communi Concilio Civitatis predictæ preter Majorem ejusdem Civitatis Et pro meliori execucione Regalis Benevolentie Nostre <3> in hac parte Ulterius Volumus<sup>3</sup> ac per presentes eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie firmiter injungendo Precipimus et Mandamus quod persone prenominate et Constitue <4> de Communi Concilio<sup>4</sup> Civitatis predictæ vel major pars eorum decepente et sine dilacione<sup>5</sup> facient et Constituent Leges et Ordinaciones rationabiliter in Scriptis cum talibus penis finibus amerciamentis<sup>6</sup> <5> et Penalitatibus qualibus eis vel majori Parti eorum expediens videbitur ad

<sup>1</sup> *in Officiis . . . eisdem* written in smaller hand over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> *et* written over erasure.

<sup>3</sup> *Ulterius Volumus* written over erasure.

<sup>4</sup> *de Communi Concilio* written over erasure.

<sup>5</sup> *di[lacione]* written over erasure.

<sup>6</sup> *penis . . . amerciamentis* written over erasure.

Compellandum et Coercendum quamcunque personam in Officium Hominis de Communi Concilio vel in aliquod alium Officium per eosdem <6> Majorem Burgenses et Communitatem Civitatis Bristollie vel per Commune Concilium ejusdem Civitatis debito modo electam super se suscipere et exequi Officium Hominis de Communi Concilio predictae Civitatis et quodlibet <7> aliud Officium Civitatis predictae cui respective electa fuerit Et Ulterius Volumus Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostreis Concedimus et Confirmamus prefatis Majori Burgensibus et <8> Communitati Civitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis quod Commune Concilium Civitatis predictae pro tempore existens vel major pars eorum habeant et habebunt plenam Potestatem et Authoritatem Condendi <9> Constituendi Ordinandi Faciendi et Stabiliendi de tempore in tempus Leges Constitutiones et Ordinationes rationabiliter in Scriptis quecunque que eis aut majori Parti eorum ad hoc congregatis <10> et Assemblatis bone salubres utiles necessarie et honeste<sup>1</sup> juxta eorum sanas Discretionem fore videbuntur pro bono regimine et gubernatione Civitatis predictae Suburborum Procinctum et Libertatum <11> ejusdem et omnium et singulorum Officiorum Ministrorum Artificium Inhabitantium et Residentium quorumcumque infra Civitatem predictam Suburba Libertates et Procinctus ejusdem pro tempore existentes ac pro <12> Declaracione quo modo et Ordine predictum Commune Concilium Civitatis predictae ac omnes et singuli Artifices Inhabitantes et Residentes infra Civitatem predictam Libertates Suburba et Procinctus ejusdem in Officijs <13> Functionibus Misterijs Artificibus et Negotijs suis infra Civitatem predictam Suburba Libertates et Procinctus ejusdem sese habebunt gerent et utentur pro ulteriori Bono Publico Communi Utilitate et bono Regimine <14> dictae Civitatis Suburborum Libertatum et Procinctum ejusdem ac Victualacione earundem ac Res et Causas alias quascunque Civitatem predictam Suburba Libertates et Procinctus ejusdem tangentes seu quoquomodo concernentes <15> Quodque Commune Concilium Civitatis predictae vel Major pars eorum quotiescunque hujusmodi<sup>2</sup> Leges Constitutiones Ordinationes Conderint Fecerint Ordinaverint vel Stabiliverint in forma predicta hujusmodi et <16> tales Penas Puniciones et Penalitates per Fines et Amerciamenta vel per eorum utrumque in et super omnes Delinquentes contra hujusmodi Leges Ordinationes et Constitutiones

<sup>1</sup> *honestas* in MS.

<sup>2</sup> *eorum . . . hujusmodi* written over erasure.

seu eorum aliquam vel aliquas <17> qualia et que predicto Communi Concilio Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existenti vel majori parti eorum necessaria opportuna et requisita pro observatione earundem Legum Ordinacionum et Constitucionum fore videbitur <18> Facere Ordinare imponere limitare et providere ac eadem Fines et Amerciamenta per Districciones Bonorum et Catallorum Acciones Debitorum vel aliter legali modo levare recuperare et habere possint et <19> valeant ad usum prefatorum Majoris Burgensium et Communitatis Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictæ et Successorum suorum imperpetuum absque impedimento Nostri heredum vel Successorum nostrorum aut alicujus vel aliquorum <20> Officiariorum vel Ministrorum Nostrorum heredum vel Successorum nostrorum et absque Compoto Nobis heredibus vel<sup>1</sup> Successoribus Nostris inde reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Que omnia et singula Leges Iura <21> Ordinaciones et Constituciones sic ut prefertur facienda observari Volumus sub penis in eisdem contentis Ita tamen quod Leges Ordinaciones et Constituciones sic ut prefertur fiendi sint rationabiles et nonsint<sup>2</sup> repugnantes<sup>3</sup> <22> nec contrarie Legibus Statutis Consuetudinibus sive Juribus Regni Nostri Magne Brittanie Ac Etiam Volumus quod Commune Concilium Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictæ imperpetuum permaneant habere <23> in omnibus Causis Materiis et Rebus quibuscunque tantam et huiusmodi Potestatem Autoritatem et Fidem quantam Commune Concilium Civitatis Nostre predictæ aliquo tempore antehac habuit vel <24> gavisus fuit Volumus etiam Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus Ac eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie et Successoribus suis Confirmamus <25> Quod si ac<sup>4</sup> toties acciderit aliquem vel aliquos de Aldermannis Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictæ pro tempore existentibus impofterum Obire vel ab Officio Aldermanni Civitatis predictæ Amoveri <26> liceat et licebit Majori Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existenti Summonire Omnes Aldermannos Civitatis predictæ pro tempore existentes ad Assemblandos in aliquo loco convenienti infra Civitatem predictam et <27> ibidem Major et Aldermanni ejusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes vel major pars eorum Eligent et Nominabunt et Eligere et Nominare

<sup>1</sup> *et absque . . . vel* written over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> *sic ut . . . nonsint* written over erasure.

<sup>3</sup> *repugnantes* interlineated over caret.

<sup>4</sup> *ac* written over erasure.

possint et valeant possit et valeat<sup>1</sup> Unum vel plurimum <28> de Commune Concilio Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte pro tempore existenti Succedere in locum sive loca Aldermanni vel Aldermannorum Civitatis predicte sic Mortui vel Amoti Mortuorum vel <29> Amotorum ut prefertur Volumus Etiam Ac per presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus et Confirmamus<sup>2</sup> eisdem Maiori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre <30> Bristollie predicte et Successoribus suis quod quandocunque acciderit aliquem vel aliquos Majorem Recordatorem Vicecomites Homines de Communi Concilio Communem Clericum Senescallum Curie Vicecomitis Comitatus <31> Bristollie predicte vel Coronatores Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentes Obire seu ab Officio suo vel Officiis suis Amoveri vel Decedere vel aliquam Eleccionem Officiariorum predictorum vel <32> alicujus vel aliquorum eorundem imposterum vacari vel frustrari per Incapacitatem vel Renunciacionem vel aliquo alio modo quod tunc et in quolibet<sup>3</sup> tali Casu alia idonea persona <33> vel aliae idoneae personae de tempore in tempus ad et in Officios illos respective debito modo Eligetur et Eligentur per Communem Concilium Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte vel majorem Partem <34> eorundem et Juretur et Jurentur per Majorem Civitatis Nostre predicte pro tempore existentem vel taliam aliam personam ad talia tempora et in tali Loco et modo prout in Civitate <35> Nostra predicta in ea parte per Spatium Quadraginta Annorum jam ultimo elapsorum Assuetum et Consuetum fuit Proviso Semper Et Volumus Ac per Presentes pro Nobis <36> Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris firmiter Injungendo Precipimus et Mandamus Quod quilibet Recordator predicte Civitatis imposterum Eligendus erit tempore <37> Electionis sui ad Officium predictum Vir in Legibus Magne Brittanie peritus et Barresterius per Spatium quinque Annorum ad minimum ante suam Eleccionem predictam <38> Acetiam quod nullus ad Officium Communis Clerici Civitatis predicte vel ad Officium Senescalli Curie Vicecomitis Comitatus Bristollie predicte imposterum Electus erit <39> nisi sit Peritus in Legibus Magne Brittanie et Barresterius fuerit per Spatium trium Annorum ad minimum ante talem Eleccionem suam in Officia predicta respective <40> Volumus Etiam Et pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus et Confirmamus eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati

<sup>1</sup> [e]t valeat written over erasure..

<sup>2</sup> An erasure follows *Confirmamus* in MS.

<sup>3</sup> et in quolibet written over erasure.

Civitatis Bristollie et <41> Successoribus suis quod quilibet Recordator Aldermannus quilibet Homo de Communi Concilio quilibet Communis Clericus et quilibet Seneschallus et Coronator <42> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte imposterum debito modo Eligendus et Jurandus respective Continuabit in Officio suo predicto quamdiu respective Se Bene Gesserit in <43> eodem Et Ulterius Volumus Ac per Presentes pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus et Confirmamus eisdem Majori <44> Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte et Successoribus suis Quod Major Recordator et Aldermanni ejusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes <45> de tempore in tempus perpetuis futuris temporibus sint et erunt Justiciarii Nostri et eorum quilibet sit et erit Justiciarius Noster ad Pacem Nostram Heredum et [*End of membrane 2*] Successorum nostrorum infra Civitatem et Comitatum predictum et Libertates et Precinctus ejusdem Conservandam Volumus Etiam Ac per Presentes pro Nobis <2> heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus et Confirmamus eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati<sup>1</sup> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte quod Major Recordator <3> et Aldermanni ejusdem Civitatis pro tempore existentes vel aliqui Tres vel plures eorum quorum Major et Recordator Civitatis predicte pro tempore existentes <4> Duos esse Volumus nunc sint et in Perpetuum de tempore in tempus erunt Justiciarii Nostri heredum et Successorum Nostrorum<sup>2</sup> ad Inquirendum per Sacramentum <5> proborum et legalium hominum de Comitatu Civitatis nostre Bristollie predicte tam infra Libertates quam extra per quos rei veritas melius Sciri poterit de omnibus <6> Proditionibus Murdris Raptibus Mulierum et aliis Feloniis quibuscunque Ac etiam de quibuscunque Transgressionibus et Malefactis infra Comitatum <7> Precinctus et Libertates Civitatis Bristollie predicte per quoscunque vel qualitercunque factis sive Perpetratis et exnunc fieri sive perpetrari contigerint Necnon ad <8> omnia Indictamenta quecunque coram eisdem Iusticiariis Nostris heredum et Successorum nostrorum aut aliis nuper Iusticiariis Nostris seu eorum aliquibus <9> infra Comitatum Civitatis predicte capta Audienda et Terminanda et ad Gaolam Nostram Comitatus Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte de Prisonariis in eadem <10> existentibus de tempore in tempus Deliberandam Concessimus Etiam et Confirmavimus Ac per Presentes pro

<sup>1</sup> *Communitati* written over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> The definition of Justices' functions which follows is given in very shortened form; cf. *supra* p. 196.

Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris <11> Concedimus et Confirmamus eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte quod Iidem<sup>1</sup> Major Burgenses et Communitas <12> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte et Successores sui Imperpetuum habeant omnia et omnimoda et singula Fines Redempciones Exitus Forisfacturas et Amerciamenta <13> coram prefatis Iusticiariis et eorum quolibet de tempore in tempus Perpetuis futuris Temporibus duraturis facienda Assidenda Forisfacienda et adjudicanda <14> Et quod bene Licebit eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte et Successoribus suis de tempore in tempus quoties opus <15> fuerit omnia et singula huiusmodi Exitus Forisfacturas Fines Redempciones et Amerciamenta Adjudicata et Adjudicanda sive assidenda per Vicecomites <16> aut alios Ministros ejusdem Civitatis Nostre Bristollie qui nunc sunt et qui pro tempore erunt ad opus dictorum Majoris Burgensium et <17> Communitatis Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte et Successorum suorum Colligere et Levare Ac Seipsos in Seisinam et Possessionem eorundem <18> ponere absque aliquo Computo vel aliquo alio Nobis Heredibus vel Successoribus nostris inde Reddendo Faciendo seu Solvendo Et Ulterius <19> volumus Ac per Presentes pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus quod Major Civitatis Nostre Bristollie <20> predicte pro tempore existens quamdiu Major Civitatis predicte Extiterit Recordator Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte pro tempore <21> existens quamdiu Recordator Civitatis illius Extiterit Aldermanni Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte pro tempore existentes <22> quamdiu Aldermanni ejusdem civitatis Extiterint Undecim Decem Novem Octo Septem Sex Quinque Quatuor vel Tres eorum <23> [Quorum Major vel Recordator Civitatis Nostre predicte pro tempore existens Unum esse vel Duos de Quinque Senioribus <24> Aldermannis Civitatis Nostre predicte pro tempore existentes Duos esse Volumus]<sup>2</sup> de Cetero Imperpetuum de tempore in <25> tempus habeant et Teneant et habere et tenere Valeant et Possint quatuor Sessiones Pacis in quolibet Anno infra Civitatem <26> Nostram Bristollie predicte ad Tempora Usualia et per Statutos in ea parte Appunctuata ut antehac ibidem Usitata fuit Ac etiam habeant <27> plenam Potestatem ad ea omnia et singula infra eandem Nostram Civitatem et Suburba et Precinctus ejusdem Facienda exercenda <28> et

<sup>1</sup> *It[dem]* written over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> These are square brackets in the MS.

Exequenda ad aliquod tempus sive aliqua tempora quotiens<sup>1</sup> Opus fuerit quot et qualia aliqui alii Justiciarii ad Pacem <29> Conservandam Assignati habent Exercent et Exequuntur vel habere Exercere et Exequi debent vel poterint<sup>2</sup> alibi infra hoc <30> Regnum Nostrum Magne Britanie Volumus Insuper Ac per Presentes pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris <31> Concedimus Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae et Successoribus suis quod predictus Georgius <32> Stevens ut prefertur Electus Unus Aldermannorum Civitatis predictae et quilibet Persona que in posterum ad Officium Aldermanni <33> Civitatis Nostre predictae Electus fuerit Capiet et Prestabit Seperalia Sacramenta et Iuramenta<sup>3</sup> pro debita Execucione Officii Aldermanni et Fiducie <34> Iusticiarii Pacis infra Civitatem predictam coram Recordatore Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae pro tempore existenti vel in ejus <35> Absentia coram Majore Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae pro tempore existenti Quibus quidem Recordatori et Majori Civitatis Nostre <36> predictae pro tempore existentibus respective hujusmodi Sacramenta et Iuramenta dandi et Administrandi plenam Potestatem et <37> Authoritatem pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Damus et Concedimus per Presentes Et Ulterius Sciatis Quod <38> Nos de Gratia Nostra Speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero moto Nostris Pardonavimus Remisimus et Relaxavimus Ac <39> per Presentes pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Pardonamus Remittimus et Relaxamus Majori Burgensibus <40> et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae et Successoribus suis Nec non omnibus et singulis Majoribus Recordatoribus <41> Aldermannis Vicecomitibus Communibus Clericis Seneschallis Curie Vicecomitis et Coronatoribus Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae <42> qui nunc Exercent vel antehac Exercuerunt predicta Officia vel eorum aliquod omnia et omnimoda Offensas Transgressiones Crimina<sup>4</sup> <43> Negligencias Contemptus et Omissiones quecumque facta Commissa et Perpetrata aliquo tempore vel aliquibus temporibus ante Datum Presentium [*End of membrane 3*] In de vel concernentia Prestacionem Sacramenta et Iuramenta ad Officia illa vel eorum aliquod respective vel in de aut concernentia admissionem <2> vel Admissiones suas ad Execucionem Officiorum praedictorum vel eorum aliquorum vel

<sup>1</sup> MS. has *quoties*.

<sup>2</sup> A mistake for *possunt*?

<sup>3</sup> *Iuramenta* written over erasure.

<sup>4</sup> *Crimina* written over erasure.

alicujus infra Civitatem Nostram Bristollie praedictam <3> sine Approbatione Nostra vel aliquorum Predecessorum Nostrorum Regum vel Reginarum Angliae primo Significata sub manu Regali <4> contra Provisionem Tenorem et veram Intencionem quarundam Literarum Patentium gerentium datum apud Westmonasterium Secundo die Junij <5> Anno Regni nuper Regis Caroli Secundi Tricesimo sexto Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Bristollie vel Predecessoribus suis <6> antehac Concessarum Et De abundantiori Gratia Nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero Motu Nostro Remisimus et Relaxavimus ac per <7> Praesentes pro Nobis Heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Remittimus et Relaxamus Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre <8> Bristollie praedictae et Successoribus suis omnem et omnimodam Potestatem et Authoritatem praefato nuper Regi Carolo Secundo heredibus et Successoribus <9> suis Reservatam in et per praedictas Literas Patentes gerentes Datum praedicto Secundo die Junii Anno Regni praefati nuper Regis Caroli Secundi Tricesimo <10> Sexto in de vel concernentem Approbacionem Majoris Recordatoris Aldermannorum Vicecomitum Hominum de Communi Concilio Communis Clerici Senescalli <11> Curiae Vicecomitis Comitatus et Coronatorum vel aliquorum Officiariorum prefati Majoris Burgensium et Communitatis Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae <12> Significandam sub Manu Regali sua heredum vel Successorum suorum Ac Etiam omnem et omnimodam Potestatem et Authoritatem praefato nuper Regi<sup>1</sup> <13> Carolo Secundo heredibus et Successoribus suis etiam Reservatam in praedictis suis Literis Patentibus de tempore in tempus et ad omnia tempora ad Majorem <14> Recordatorem et aliquem vel aliquos Aldermannorum vel Vicecomitem et aliquem vel aliquos de Communi Concilio vel Communem Clericum Senescallum <15> Curiae Vicecomitis vel Coronatores Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae in predictis Literis Patenciis Nominatos et Constitutos vel postea Nominandos et Eligendos ad <16> Libitum et Beneplacitum prefati nuper Regis Caroli secundi heredum et Successorum suorum per aliquem Ordinem suum heredum vel Successorum suorum in Privato <17> Concilio factam et sub Sigillo Privati Concilii predicti eisdem respective significatam Amovendum et amotum et amotos esse Declarandam Volumus Insuper ac per Praesentes <18> pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Concedimus Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictis et Successoribus

<sup>1</sup> *nuper Regi* written over erasure.



suis quod Commune Concilium <19> Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte pro tempore existens vel Major pars eorum de cetero in perpetuum habeat et habebit plenam Potestatem et Authoritatem <20> Mutandi tempora et Loca in quo vel quibus Mercata vel aliquod eorundem per Ipsos vel Predecessores suos antehac vel modo Usitata Tenta et Custodita <21> sunt vel fuerint infra Civitatem Nostram Bristollie predictam Libertates vel Precinctus ejusdem Concedimus Etiam Ac per Presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus <22> Nostris Ordinamus quod Omnia mercata predicta in posterum<sup>1</sup> Tenta et Custodita erunt de tempore in tempus talibus diebus in tali Loco vel talibus Locis infra <23> Civitatem Nostram Bristollie predictam Libertates vel Precinctus ejusdem qualibus Commune Concilium Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte pro tempore existens <24> Constituet et Appunctuabit per aliquam Ordinacionem in Scriptis de tempore in tempus factam vel faciendam Et Ulterius Concessimus Ac per Presentes <25> pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus Nostris Damus et Concedimus eisdem Majori Burgensibus et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte quod <26> Commune Concilium Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte habeant et habebunt Potestatem et Authoritatem Condendi Constituendi Ordinandi et Faciendi de tempore in tempus <27> tales Leges Constituciones et Ordinaciones rationabiliter quascunque in Scriptis ponendas (adeo ut eadem Legibus hujus Regni non contrarie vel repugnantes sint) pro <28> meliori Regulacione et Gubernacione eorundem Mercatorum vel aliqui eorum et personarum adinde venientium et ibidem commercium habentium quales et quas <29> eidem Communi Concilio Civitatis Nostre Bristollie pro tempore existenti vel majori Parti eorundem bonae honestae et Salubres juxta eorum Sanes Disretiones fore <30> videbuntur pro Commodo Utilitate et Convenientia earundem et personarum Mercatis predictis utentium aliquo in predictis Literis Patentibus prefati nuper Regis Caroli <31> Secundi contento aut aliquo alio in contrarium inde Non obstante Et Ulterius ex abundantiori Gratia Nostra Speciali ac ex<sup>2</sup> certa Scientia et mero motu Nostris <32> Volumus Ac per Presentes pro Nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris Damus Confirmamus Ratificamus et Approbamus prefatis Majori Burgensibus <33> et Communitati Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predicte et Successoribus suis tot tanta et talia eadem et Consimilia Iurisdicciones Libertates Potestates et Franchlesias

<sup>1</sup> *mercata . . . posterum* written over erasure.

<sup>2</sup> *ac ex* written over erasure.

Exempciones <34> Privilegia Emolumenta et Hereditamenta quecunque quot quanta qualia et quae in aut per Praesentes non Mutata sive Alterata existunt et quot quantis qualiis et quibus <35> Major Burgenses et Communitas Civitatis Nostre Bristollie predictae antehac Usi fuerunt habuerunt vel gavisi fuerunt ratione aliquarum Prescripcionum vel aliquarum <36> Chartarum vel Literarum Patencium per aliquos Antecessores Nostros Reges vel Reginas Anglie antehac factarum Concessarum sive Confirmatarum aut quocunque alio <37> legali modo antehac habita usita sive Consueta licet eadem aut eorum aliquod vel aliqua male usa non usa vel abusa aut discontinuata fuerunt vel fuit talia tamen <38> semper cum mutacionibus alteracionibus emendacionibus et addicionibus qualia superius in presentibus facte expresse et contente existunt In Cujus rei Testimonium has Literas Nostras <39> fieri fecimus Patentes Teste Meipsa apud Westmonasterium vicesimo quarto die Julij Anno Regni Nostri Nono.

Cocks

*Per Breve de Privato Sigillo*

*Solvat' pro Fine in Hanaper' Dne' Rne' Vigint' Marcae Sterlingorum Cowper. C.*

*Inrolled in the Records of the Exchequer (to witt) amongst the Common Busyness of Trinity Term in the Thirteenth year of King George the Second on the Lord Treasurers Remembrancers side by Henry Bromfeild. /.<sup>1</sup>*

## XXVI

## GRANT OF THE LORD MAYORALTY, 1899

*Letters Patent of 21 June, 63 Victoria*

*The text is taken from the original in the City Archives, C.T. 07887. It consists of a single skin of parchment, 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide by 17" long; a £30 stamp; no decorations; the seal, in yellow wax, enclosed in a tin box, and attached by red and yellow woollen cords braided in lozenge pattern through the folded bottom margin.*

<sup>1</sup> Cf. C.C.P., 1722-38, p. 268.

*Endorsements : Dated 21st June 1899.*

*Grant of the title of Lord Mayor of Bristol.*

*Enrolment : P.R.O. Pat. Roll, 63 Victoria, pt. 4.*

*Printed copy : Latimer, Calendar, 189-90.*

Victoria By The Grace Of God <2> of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith To All To Whom these <3> Presents shall come, Greeting : Know Ye that Our will and pleasure is And We <4> Do Hereby Declare And Ordain that from and after the date of these presents the Chief Magistrate now and for the time being of the City of Bristol shall be styled <5> entitled and called Lord Mayor of Bristol. And We Do Hereby Authorize And <6> Empower the Chief Magistrate of the said city of Bristol now and for the time being henceforth <7> at all times to assume and use and to be called and named by the style title and appellation <8> of Lord Mayor of Bristol and to enjoy and use all and singular the rights privileges <9> preeminences and advantages to the degree of a Lord Mayor in all things duly and <10> of right belonging In Witness whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made <11> Patent Witness Ourself at Westminster the twenty first day of June in the Sixty Third <12> year of Our reign.

By warrant under the Queen's sign manual

Muir Mackenzie



## APPENDIX A

### OTHER GRANTS TO THE CITY UNDER THE GREAT SEAL IN THE CITY ARCHIVES<sup>1</sup>

1. C.T. 0001. *Commission of Admiralty, 16 July, 1 Edward VI (1547).*

Addressed to the Mayor, the Recorder (Robert Kailway), and to the following sixteen burgesses: Roger Cooke, Thomas Pacy, William Shepeman, William Chester, Robert Adams, John Smythe, John Thorne, William ap Howell, William Jaye, William Rowley, William Sprate, John Prynie, Francis Cotherington, Robert Sexxe, William Jones and William Cane. After a summary of the charter of 1373, the commission goes on to recite the perambulation of the same year (*vol. i*, pp. 142-5), and the Admiralty charter of Edward IV (*vol. ii*, pp. 132-6). The above persons are to act as commissioners for Admiralty causes in the city and county of Bristol, provided that in their number is always included one of the following: the Mayor, the Recorder, Cooke, Pacy, Shepeman, Chester, Adams or Smythe.

2. G.W.B. fo. 298. *Copy of Letters Patent, 27 February, 4 Edward VI (1550), granting to Sir William Herbert the offices of Constable of the castle, Keeper of the gate, and Steward of the city.*<sup>2</sup>

The King appoints Sir William Herbert to the offices of Constable and Keeper of the castle for life. He can exercise these duties by deputy, and has the right to appoint two castle-wards or *vigiles* who will keep watch by night and day. He is to have the same emoluments as his immediate predecessor, Edward,

<sup>1</sup> Three instruments included in the list given in *vol. i*, p. xx are omitted here, since they were granted to individuals, and not to the corporation: (1) C.T. 00665(2), a general livery above value to John Crispe, 5 February, 42 Elizabeth (1600); C.T. 07657(4), a lease to Francis Doughtie, 14 May, 8 James I (1610); and C.T. 01146, letters patent of 23 October, 26 Charles II (1674), appointing Sir Thomas Monins, Baronet, his executors, administrators and assigns, Water-Bailiffs of the Severn, for 31 years, at an annual rent of £10.

<sup>2</sup> Omitted from the list in *vol. i*, p. xx.

Duke of Somerset, and in addition £20 *p.a.*[?] as Constable, 2d. per day as Keeper of the gate, and 3½d. per day for the two castle-wards—the money being charged to the fee-farm or other royal revenue from Bristol. He is also appointed to the Stewardship of the city, lately vacated by the Duke of Somerset and now in the King's hands by virtue of an act of 4 November last.<sup>1</sup> He is to hold the office and enjoy the fees (paid by the city) throughout the whole of the Duke's natural life, without rendering any account to the King.

3. G.W.B. fos. 504–505 b. *Copy of Commission to examine witnesses, 25 February, 27 February (1585).*<sup>2</sup>

Directed to William Reade, Esquire, Humphrey Michel, Gentleman, and Bevis Bulmer, Gentleman. They are to enquire about the Spanish bullion brought to Bristol in December last in a ship of St. Malo (the *Volant*) by William Alen, and now in the possession of Thomas Thomas and certain other persons, of Bristol. Its owner is unknown, and it appears to belong to the Crown. They have authority to examine persons on oath, and to take custody of the bullion, making return to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer. All Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs and other officers are to give them help. (*Witnessed by Burghley.*)

4. C.T. 01263(1). *Duplicate Commission of Lieutenancy, 25 August, 27 Elizabeth (1585).* [*In English*]

Commission of Lieutenancy to Henry, Earl of Pembroke, for the counties of Somerset and Wiltshire, the city and county of Bristol, and the cities of Bath, Wells and Salisbury. His deputies are named, and include (for Bristol) the Mayor of Bristol for the time being.

5. C.T. 01238. *Commission of Admiralty, 31 May, 3 James I (1605).*<sup>3</sup>

Addressed to the Mayor, the Recorder, Francis James (Doctor of Laws and Judge of the court of Admiralty at Bristol), and to the following: William Hicks, Francis Knight, William Persey, John Webbe, William Ellis, John Hopkins, William Vawer,

<sup>1</sup> I have not been able to trace this act. The exact punishment meted out to Somerset after his imprisonment in November, 1549, is a matter of doubt; cf. A. F. Pollard, *England under Protector Somerset*, 282.

<sup>2</sup> Omitted from the list in vol. i, p. xx.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Latimer, *Calendar*, 150–1.

Ralphe Hurte, John Whitson, Christopher Kedgwin, and Thomas James, Aldermen, and John Barker, Richard Smyth, Matthew Haveland, Thomas Pitcher, John Boucher, Robert Aldworth, Abel Kitchin, John Harrison, John Boulton, Thomas Hopkins, William Hopkins, John Fowens, John Aldworth, John Rowberowe, George White, John Roberts, William Cole, Thomas Aldworth and John Guy, Gentlemen. These are appointed commissioners for Admiralty causes in the city and county of Bristol, provided that in their number is always included one of the following: the Mayor, the Recorder, Francis James, one of the Aldermen, or one of the six most senior Councillors.

For the rest, the Commission repeats, with some verbal changes, that of 1547 (*supra*, p. 229).

6. C.T. 01264(1-2). *Duplicate Commission of Lieutenancy, with deputation, 13 June and 15 July, 21 James I (1623).*<sup>1</sup>

Commission of Lieutenancy to William, Earl of Pembroke, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, in similar terms to No. 3 above. Attached to the Commission is Pembroke's instrument of deputation, appointing the Mayor of Bristol for the time being, as one of his Deputy-Lieutenants.

7. C.T. 01240. *Commission for Charitable Uses, 10 July, 4 Charles I (1628).* [*In English; mostly illegible.*]<sup>2</sup>

Addressed to the Mayor, Bishop, Recorder, Dean, Aldermen, Chancellor of the diocese, and to Humfry Crowne [?] Thomas Wright, Richard Long, merchant, and Jerome Ham. They are empowered to act as a commission of enquiry into charitable benefactions, under the statute of 20 October 43 Elizabeth.

8. C.T. 00011. *Copy of a Commission of Admiralty issued to Doctor Gilbert Jones, 3 February, 19 Charles I (1644).*

Doctor Jones is empowered to hear all Admiralty causes in Somerset and in Bristol, to appoint deputies, and to receive all fees and profits. All Mayors, Sheriffs and other officers are to give him help, on pain of punishment. The Admiralty causes are listed, and the rights of the Supreme Court of Admiralty (including the right to hear appeals) are reserved.

<sup>1</sup> Copy in C.T. 00767 (1-7).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Latimer, *Calendar*, 152-3.





## APPENDIX B

### ACCOUNTS RELATING TO NUMBER IX<sup>1</sup>

The Chapell of the Bridge. The Accompte of me John Wyllye Chambrelen of the Citie of Bristowe made the xxix<sup>th</sup> Daie of Novembre A° mv<sup>c</sup> xlvij<sup>o</sup> of all things aswell of Receipts as also of payments and costs and charges of the purchasing of the Scite of the Chapell vpon the bridge of Bristowe comonly called the Chapell of the assumpcion of our Ladye

#### The Receipts

In primis Receued by thands of the proctors and Auditors of the Chapell of the bridge at the last Accompte as it shall appere in the ffote of the same Accompte . . . liiiij<sup>li</sup> xvjs ob

Item more Receiued by thands of M<sup>rs</sup> Compton vj<sup>li</sup> xiijs iiij<sup>d</sup> and is for the consideracion that S<sup>r</sup> Thomas hir kynsman might be admytted to the same service<sup>2</sup> . . . xj<sup>li</sup> xiiij: iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item receiued more for the Bells and all other ymplements belonging to the same Excepte the Chalice w<sup>ch</sup> remayneth in thands of M<sup>r</sup> Pacye<sup>3</sup> . . . . . xj<sup>li</sup>

Summa totalis of the Receipts mo<sup>t</sup> . . . lxxij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> ob

The Payments Costs and Charges for the purchasing of the said Chapell and the sute thereof And also in the sute for the obteyning of the Quyte Rents of the Chauntrie Londs mounting yerely to the somm of xxij<sup>li</sup> & od money w<sup>ch</sup> is for the maytenaunce of the Bridge and for the relief & comforte of pore people of this Towne

<sup>1</sup> From A.B., iv. 115-19. For the processes which preceded the grant of a charter, see H. Maxwell-Lyte, *The Great Seal*, 94-6.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Thomas was presumably the chantry-priest (*Annals*, i. 21). He was paid £6 13s. 4d. *p.a.* (P.R.O., Court of Augmentations, Certificates of Sale, vol. 21, no. 63). Mrs. Compton was in 1548 the tenant of Temple Meads (A.B., iv. 75).

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Pacy, Mayor 1543-4. In 1539 he had been called by a violent reformer "the prater Pacy" (*L. & P.*, xiv., pt. 1, p. 184). Cf. also *Trans. B. & G.*, xii. 84.

In primis paide for a warrant from the Commyssioners to the S<sup>r</sup>veyo<sup>r</sup> . . . . . ij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to the Surveyors depute for the particuler of the whole Londs apperteynyng to the Chapell of the Bridge . . . . . xij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Starnolds Clerke and M<sup>r</sup> Pates clerke for expedicion therof for their dyner<sup>1</sup> . . . . . xvj<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Sargeant Morgan<sup>2</sup> for his Councell w<sup>ch</sup> toke payne to peruse the statute and the Certificat to see if any of the Londs could be saved . . . . . v<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to the Kings Maiestie for the p<sup>r</sup>chase of the Scite of the Chapell vpon the bridge w<sup>t</sup> the priests Chambre and the ledd w<sup>t</sup> all thappertenaunces belonging to the same<sup>3</sup> . . . . . xli<sup>ii</sup>

Item paid more to the King for the bells and all the vestements and ymplements of the same whiche was graunted to M<sup>r</sup> Pates<sup>4</sup> . . . . . xi<sup>ii</sup>

Item paid for the quittance for the payment thereof to S<sup>r</sup> John Wilyams Receuer<sup>5</sup> . . . . . xij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Duke<sup>6</sup> by thands of M<sup>r</sup> Pates for the pennyng owte of o<sup>r</sup> patent . . . . . xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Wrythelington M<sup>r</sup> Dukes clerke . . . . . xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Goodrick<sup>7</sup> . . . . . xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Mycasins for his fees for the Synett and prevey Seale . . . . . v<sup>li</sup>

Item paid for ij ells of lase for the seale . . . . . vj<sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Starnold and Richard Pate were among the Commissioners appointed to effect the dissolution of chantries in Gloucestershire and Bristol (*L. & P.*, xxi., pt. 1, p. 147; *Trans. B. & G.*, viii. 232). Starnold was a groom of the Wardrobe (*Cal. Pat. Roll*, 1547-8, p. 193); Pate, a lawyer of Gloucester, and later its Recorder and M.P. (*D.N.B.*; *Trans. B. & G.*, lvi. 201-25).

<sup>2</sup> Richard Morgan, Serjeant at Law, 1547 (Haydn, *Book of Dignities*, 408).

<sup>3</sup> Paid June, 1548 (P.R.O., Augmentation Office, Misc. Bks., vol. 68, fo. 160). This sum was later recovered from David Harris, who became the tenant of the Chapel (A.B., v. 281; C.T. 04027).

<sup>4</sup> A list of the possessions is given in *ibid.*, fo. 159 b. There was a bell in the tower, and two smaller bells.

<sup>5</sup> Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations; see *D.N.B.*

<sup>6</sup> Richard Duke, clerk of the Court of Augmentations, 1546 (*L. & P.*, xxi., pt. 1, p. 72).

<sup>7</sup> Richard Goodrich, attorney of the Court of Augmentations; see *D.N.B.*

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Mycasins servaunt for writing half the patent  
agayne w<sup>ch</sup> was in vayne . . . . . vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to my lorde Chauncelo<sup>r</sup> for petie ffees for the great  
Seale . . . . . xlvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for wryting and enrolling the Patent . . . . . lvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for the vellom . . . . . xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Chidley<sup>1</sup> for his counsell . . . . . v<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Walter of the Rolls . . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Pates for iij dais taring in London for setting  
forthe the said [*Patent*?] and to ride w<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Duke to Crayforde. xxiiij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid for his Clarks charges to tarie in London iij dais after  
his M<sup>r</sup> was departed to haue the booke syned w<sup>t</sup> thands of M<sup>r</sup>  
Myldmaye<sup>2</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Duke & M<sup>r</sup> Goodrick . . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Pates for his charges to London after bartilmewe  
tide and so whome agayne for hym and his ij men for to haue  
owte o<sup>r</sup> patent vnder the seale . . . . . iiij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for the wryting of the particulers of the quyte Rents  
that the King hathe geuen w<sup>ch</sup> was chauntries lands toward the  
menteynaunce of the towne & relief of pore people iiij times in  
parchement . . . . . xx<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Starnolds clerke for his good will to sett forwards  
the same . . . . . xxxij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Pates for his paynes for drawing owte the said  
particulers w<sup>t</sup> certen memorandums to make a declaracion for  
o<sup>r</sup> bridge & poore people . . . . . v<sup>li</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Myldemayes Clerke for entring the same particulers  
and the payment of the money . . . . . v<sup>s</sup>

I aske allowance for xxij<sup>ti</sup> dais when I was at London in Trynytie  
terme for me and my man and for horsetete and mans mete  
abowte the said patent and for the sute of the obteynnyng of the  
said quyterents at iiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> the daie . . . . . iiij<sup>li</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robert Chidley, attorney of the Court of First Fruits and Tenth, 1546  
(*L. & P.*, xxi., pt. 1, p. 73).

<sup>2</sup> Walter Mildmay, one of the Surveyors-General of the Court of  
Augmentations, and, with Robert Kellway, in charge of the dissolution of all  
chantries (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1548-9, pp. 57-8; *D.N.B.*).

Item paid for the hier of ij horses the same Journey . . . xx<sup>s</sup>

Item paid for my mans wages xxij dais . . . vij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid to M<sup>r</sup> Pates Clerke for his costs and charges to ride to London in the monethe of Septembre last paste for to feche whome o<sup>r</sup> patent at w<sup>ch</sup> tyme he was not sealed and to ride to my lorde Chauncelors place<sup>1</sup> in the Contrey as it shall appere by his bill

In wh<sup>ch</sup> Journey he saith<sup>e</sup> he lost a horse In consideracion I gave hym . . . . . iiij<sup>li</sup> vij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item I aske allowance for ij dais for me and ij more w<sup>t</sup> me to ride to glouc' to speke w<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Pates abowte the said matters . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Summa totalis of the Payments . . . lxxxvij<sup>li</sup> xvij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

So Reste that the payments is more than the Receipts by . . . . . xv<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> ob

<sup>1</sup> Baron Rich (d. 1567), lived at Leighs Priory, Essex.

## APPENDIX C

ACCOUNTS RELATING TO NUMBER XII<sup>1</sup>

The Charge of the License of Mortmayne for the purchasing of  
 I<sup>e</sup> xx<sup>li</sup> per annum, no tenure excepted, but such as are holden  
 in Capite et per servic' militare.

IN primis p<sup>d</sup> for the hier of ij horssys for me and my man to ride to London in Michelmas Terme last where I was the space of xxj days, to procure the license of Mortmayne for I<sup>c</sup> xx<sup>li</sup> per annum to make the Covenaut betwixt S<sup>r</sup> Raphe Sadler and the mayer & cominaltie touching the Annuitie of x<sup>li</sup> per annum, to understand w<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Matthewe Smythe touching his land in Horseley, aswell of the assuraunce as of the prise, and also to begynne the suyte touching the wrack at Portsheade Poynt taken away by my lord Berckleys officers for the hier of the horssis at xij<sup>d</sup> per day . . . . . ij<sup>li</sup> ijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> for mans meate & horsse meate the said xxj days at vj<sup>s</sup> per  
day in w<sup>ch</sup> tyme I ryd to Harrowe vpon the hill to the quenes  
Atto<sup>r</sup>ney to get his hand to the said license am<sup>o</sup>th . . . . . vj<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to the clerck of the M<sup>r</sup> of Requests to seke owt the draught  
of the supplicacion for the said mortmayne w<sup>ch</sup> was drawn the last  
terme . . . . . ii<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for newe drawyng the said supplicacion adding more  
mattier to it of consideracion viz all the names of the cities &  
towns & the vse thereof beyng iij shetes of paper . . . iij<sup>s</sup>

Item for drawyng the license of mortmayne in to pages by M<sup>r</sup>  
Garthe . . . . . vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for the copie of the supplicacion and license to shewe it to  
M Mayer and thaldermen at my retorne . . . . . iiiij<sup>s</sup>

## In Hillarie Terme

Item p<sup>d</sup> for the hier of ij horssys for me and my man to ride to London to prosecute the sewte for the said license of mortmayne,

<sup>1</sup> Taken from A.B., viii. 309-10.

to end w<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Raphe Sadler and to procede agaynst Kemp of  
 Portshead towching the wrack at xij<sup>d</sup> per day am<sup>o</sup>th for xxij<sup>ti</sup>  
 days . . . . . ij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for mans meate and horse meate those xxij<sup>ti</sup> days at vj<sup>s</sup>  
 per day . . . . . vj<sup>li</sup> xvij<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for my mans hier for xxij<sup>ti</sup> days at vj<sup>d</sup> per day . xj<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for my mans hier for xxj<sup>ti</sup> days the last terme at vj<sup>d</sup> per  
 day . . . . . x<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

Item geven to M<sup>r</sup> G.gerrard the quenes Atto<sup>r</sup>ney for setting his  
 hand to the License of Mortmayne w<sup>th</sup> whome I was v tymes,  
 namelie once at his house in the countrie xij myle owt of London,  
 who was lothe to let it passe w<sup>th</sup> owt a ffyne, vntill I made ffrinds  
 to perswade hym . . . . . v<sup>li</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for engrossing the said License at two tymes . xx<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Sanckie his clerck to labo<sup>r</sup> my sute & to help me to  
 his spech . . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Garth of the Rolls to perswade hym to let it passe  
 w<sup>th</sup>owt ffyne and to another of the Inner temple . . . . . xxx<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to the M<sup>r</sup> of Requests to get the quenes signe to the said  
 license . . . . . xij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for the great Seale viij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup>, writing & enrolling xlvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>,  
 for examynacion, grenewax & lase vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>, for the velume skynne  
 and drawyng v<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>, to the M<sup>r</sup> of the Rolls for his ffee vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>, to  
 the chaffer of the wax and sealer ij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>, for the docket ij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup> for a  
 recompense to Turner x<sup>s</sup> Summa . . . . . xij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to the clerke of the M<sup>r</sup> of the requests for registering the  
 supplicacion after it was signed by the quene . . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Oseley <sup>1</sup> for the privie seale. . . . . xxxv<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to hym for his ffee of the same . . . . . xxxv<sup>s</sup>

Item the ffee of the ij clercks of the said privie seale . . . . . xxx<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Oseleys Clerck . . . . . v<sup>s</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richard Oseley, clerk of the Privy Seal, 1566 (*C.S.P.D.*, Addenda, 1566-79, p. 8).

## In Trinitie Terme

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Disleys Clerck for his paynes in travailing w<sup>t</sup> me to my Lord Keper to get his signe to the docket . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Andrews which carrieth the seale before my Lord Keper for telling me howe the viij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> shuld be put in the mergent of the docket wherbie my Lord Keper was content to signe it that it might be sealed . . . . . x<sup>s</sup>

Item for a loade of matts geven to the M<sup>r</sup> of Requests who gat the quenes Atto<sup>r</sup>neys hand to the docket because my Lord Keper did ask ij<sup>cl</sup> for the fyne of the said mortmayne am<sup>o</sup>th . . . . . iiij<sup>li</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> in the Office of the Hampier for the grete seale and in M<sup>r</sup> Disleys office, which was p<sup>d</sup> before by M<sup>r</sup> Reade to sue John Turner who by killing of a man was in trouble so that I could not recoverre the same agayne the summe of . . . . . xij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> for a box to put the said License of Mortmayne in . . . . . viij<sup>d</sup>

Abate for so much license as shall purchase the summe of xxxiiij<sup>li</sup> per annum which must be charged to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Whites Accompt<sup>t</sup> and doth fall owt at xiiij<sup>s</sup> per li amounteth . . . . . xxij<sup>li</sup> ij<sup>s</sup>

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